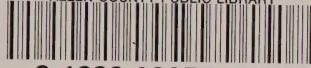


**HISTORY
OF
MOUNTAINSIDE**

1895—1945

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HISTORY

of the

Borough of Mountainside

Union County, New Jersey

1895—1945

By

Jean Hesketh Hershey

Sponsored by

Mountainside Civic Council
and
Mountainside Defense Council

Allen County Public Library
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Introduction

IN telling the history of any town, the problem is to keep out of the way of mere statistics and bring the human touch to bear. Otherwise, such history is likely to find its way to the back of the shelf, being brought out merely to check up on "when so-and-so got into office," or when Junior comes home from school with a question on local history.

To circumvent this, we introduce "Junior," who is slowly walking home from the 1945 Observance of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Borough of Mountainside. Junior, who is in his last year of grammar school, has grown up here in town, joined the Boy Scouts, has a sister in the Girl Scouts, gone to the Chapel, has a family fairly active in Borough affairs, etc., but has never given much thought to "his town" until today. The various speeches by the Mayor, the Minister, as well as the sketches put on by several of the civic organizations, have "sunk in," as he would say, and he is curious about things he never thought of before.

He turns to his Grandmother, walking beside him, and says: "Gran, the family's been around here a long time, I guess, from things you've said. I've heard you talk about 'the old days'—what were they like before we became Mountainside? Who did it, and what's it all about now? I've always thought we'd kinda been here forever, and all that. Can you tell me something about it?"

"Gran" looks down and answers: "When we get home, you run up to my room and bring that old box down from my desk. It's got some real old papers in it I saved when I cleaned out my grandmother's attic. That will help some. And bring down my scrap book, too. Then I think maybe I can tell you what you'd like to know."

Junior, for once, does as he is told as soon as he gets in the house. Then he settles down with "Gran," and listens to her story.

CHAPTER I

“Facts and Fancies”

WELL, son, as you have already learned in school this area was occupied by the Lenni Lenape (Delaware) Indians long before the white man came. However the Watchung section was set aside by them as a hunting ground and was not settled. The old Lenni Lenape Trail ran through Mountainside, north and south, with branches running off toward the coast. This Borough is located on the old Minnisink Trail, which ran from Clay Pit Creek, through Westfield to Branch Mills. Much of the merchandise used by the first whites in this district, the Dutch, passed along the trail as early as 1604.

History tells us that on September 26, 1664, John Foster, Daniel Denton, Thomas Benydick, John Bailies, Nathaniel Denton and Luke Watson presented to Governor Richard Nichols of New York, a petition to purchase and settle the land surrounding Achter Kol. This was granted, and with the arrival of Philip Carteret, who was to act as Proprietary Governor of New Jersey, the first general English government of East Jersey was set up. This was in August, 1665. The Township of Elizabeth, named for the wife of Sir George Carteret, was fully organized in 1693.

Elizabethtown, as it was then called, included the towns of Woodbridge and Piscataway, part of the towns of Newark and Clinton, a small part of Morris County, and a considerable portion of Somerset County, in all, about 500,000 acres. On May 21, 1666, the townships of Woodbridge, Piscataway and Newark were set off from Elizabethtown.

Westfield (or West Fields, as it was then known) became a separate township in 1794. Rahway was set off from Westfield in

1804; Plainfield in 1847; Cranford in 1870 and Scotch Plains in 1877. All this territory was in Essex County until the year 1847, when Union County was formed, with Elizabeth as the County Seat. In 1895, Mountainside was separated from Westfield.

Before I go on to tell you why Mountainside elected to become a separate borough, I think you should know a little more about the background, some stories about places which are familiar to you. Many of the homes are quite old, as you know, and several of the places to which you have hiked, or at which you have picnicked, have very interesting histories. Suppose I tell you about them.

THE OLD MINE

During the latter part of the 17th Century, and the early part of the 18th, there were searches in all parts of the State for mineral deposits. In many stream beds in the Watchung Range, evidences of copper were found.

Just west of the Badgley property near Silver Lake is yet to be seen the mine shaft where copper operations were carried on by miners from Cornwall, England, about 1664. In early times this ore deposit was situated on the property of Samuel Potter.

It was spoken of as an old mine in 1733: "A tract of 414 1/4 acres at the foot of Second Mountain, by the side of the Old Mine, was laid out for him on February 26, 1733." It is very questionable whether a worthwhile amount of copper was ever taken from this shaft.

DESERTED VILLAGE

What you know as Deserted Village is not really a part of Mountainside, but so many of your friends from there go to school with you, you may be interested in hearing about what it used to be.

It was once, before the Revolution, the important town of Feltville. The powder and ball manufactured there was very helpful to Washington.

In 1845, the community was as large as Westfield at that time. There were thirty-five houses, a church, a school, and a paper mill. The name "Feltville" was given in honor of one of its

earliest noted inhabitants, David Felt. Littell's Genealogy of the Passaic Valley was printed in this town of Feltville.

During the Civil War (since most of its manufacturers were doing business with the South), the industries closed, and the town fell into decay. Mr. S. P. Townsend, manufacturer of "Townsend's Sarsaparilla," traded his home on Fifth Avenue, New York, for the whole area, but never rebuilt. Mr. Warren Ackerman later purchased the village, and built up quite a residential area there, called Glenside Park.

18TH AND EARLY 19TH CENTURY LANDMARKS

The next time you're out delivering your papers, take a good look at some of the older houses around town. Several of them were built way back between 1740 and 1800. Some of them have been changed so there is not much resemblance to the original buildings, but others are about as they were built. Here, get me that map and I'll show you where they are.

THE COLLINS HOUSE

This home, at the mountain top on New Providence Road, is one of the oldest. Like most of the houses of the time, it was built in two sections: the first, or west side, about 1790, by Jacob Clark for his daughter Sarah, who married John Collins, an immigrant from Ireland. The East Side was added by Noah Collins, a son, in 1831. The last of the line to occupy the house was



Photo by Zimmerman

Andrew Jackson Collins, who was 89 years old in 1937. Sarah Collins lived to be 101 years and two months of age. She is the oldest person buried in the Westfield Presbyterian Cemetery, with the exception of Samuel Downer of that town, who was 101 years seven months when he died.

Though the house was unoccupied for some little time after the death of Andrew Jackson Collins, it has been repaired, and will be occupied by a member of the Collins family.

THE BADGLEY HOUSE

The Badgley house, up on New Providence Road, was built by the pioneers, James and John Badgley, in 1738. The land (400 acres) was purchased in 1738. It is a hand-made house. The frames were hewn in the forest, the lath hand-split, shingles split in the forest, and the plaster made of lime and clay from their own grounds. The nails were made by the local blacksmith, the wooden pegs out of white pine and the frame and floor fastened with wooden dowels. The Presbyterian Sunday School was organized here. When Mr. Frederick S. Taggart bought the farm in 1909, the old house was beyond repair and he moved it to the rear.

Here's this old copy of the "Jersey Journal," dated July 5, 1780, in this box, that mentions Badgley's. It seems that when the British were expected to enter Westfield during the Revolution, a lot of the Westfield people sent their valuables up to Badgley's, thinking that so far out of town they would be safe.

However, during the raids, the place was ransacked, and this advertisement offered \$500 for the return of the goods, namely "Quantities of linen, clothing, silver, a number of silk gowns owned by a lady in Westfield, and a State lottery ticket." I've often wondered if they ever got the things back.

THE DEACON ANDREW HETFIELD HOUSE

The Deacon Andrew Hetfield house was partly built by the Deacon about 1755, and an eastern addition was made sometime after 1800. William Clark, Revolutionary hero, who married Deacon Hetfield's daughter, lived in the house until his death in 1853, at the age of 97. Some of its most noteworthy features



are the old "Dutch Oven," from which the house takes its present name; the fireplace with the side flue, and the hand-hewn oak floors, unusual to the period, when most of the floors were of pine. This dwelling, on Route 29, is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Rosencrantz and their daughter.

THE SMITH WILLIAMS HOUSE

Next door, the Smith Williams house was built about 1790, it is thought, by Deacon Andrew Hetfield, as a wedding present for his daughter Abigail, who married Smith Williams, a shoemaker and tanner. His daughters, Phoebe and Ann, were born in the house, and the latter lived there all the ninety-five years of her life. Former Senator Arthur N. Pierson lived there for a time in his boyhood, as did Hiram and James Fink. In 1918 it was purchased by Mr. Fred Rumpf, who now occupies the lovely old place. He went to great lengths to preserve it in its original form.

I remember that back in 1929, when the old County bridge that crosses Route 29 at this point was removed and the ditch widened to make room for the abutments of the present bridge, the engineers at first thought they had struck quicksand. Further excavating, however, disclosed the old vats in which Tanner Clark soaked his leather, a process which required a year to complete. Tanners Clark and Williams used these vats for fifty years, and apparently they were still serviceable when abandoned. Shows how well they built things in the old days.

Up at the other end of the Borough, on the north side of



Smith Williams House. *Photo by Zimmerman.*

Springfield Road, is the NOAH CLARK house, up past the junction with Route 29. This house was probably built before the Revolution. William Richards lived here for many years. This family of Clarks died out.

The Rolls family still occupy the BROOKS ROLL house on Springfield Road, after it leaves Route 29. Deacon Samuel Brooks lived in the house recently vacated by the Voorhees. He owned property down both sides of Mill Lane, about 100 acres in all. One of his family, Philips Brooks (who died in 1747 at the age of 72) married into the Roll family, and the name still carries through. Brooks' house is now known as Jack and Joan's Restaurant. Deacon Brooks was a Baptist, very active in the church at Scotch Plains.

THE HAMILTON HOUSE

Down on Woodland Avenue, right near Mountain Avenue (the intersection then known as "Bird's Corners"), stands the Hamilton House. It was built about 1780, probably by Aaron

Miller for his son Abraham (1763-1833). Jacob, son of John Hamilton, bought the property from the Millers, and died here in 1908, at the age of 100. His son Henry lived there all his life. It has recently been sold to the Mathes family by Minnie Hamilton, who still resides on the property.

Now, let me see . . . what else can I tell you about the old-timers. Oh yes! Over here, right about where the Roll woodshed stands, Anthony Badgley, Jr., kept a blacksmith shop. John Hamilton kept a smithy where Al Heckel lives. William Mills lived on what is now Henry Weber's property.

John Scudder, Jr., was a clock maker living where the Coles Memorial Home now stands. Thomas Woodruff lived where



Hamilton House. *Photo by Zimmerman*

August Rader now resides, and was president of the first Board of Directors of the Westfield Presbyterian Church. He also drew up wills and deeds for his neighbors. The John Moxons own the Ichabod Clark homestead. Elder Frazee's house stood where Bliwise's store is now. His daughter married Henry Baker, and Elder Frazee who owned practically all the property now known as Echo Lake Park, on up to the Parkway, gave Baker a mill to run about where the Park dam is now. Baker's daughter married a Ball, who got all the property. Ball's daughter married Mr. J. H. W. Edwards of the Parkway, who was born in August Rader's house.

Jonathan Woodruff lived in the valley between the highway and where the Children's Country Home now is. He died in 1777.

Deacon Samuel Woodruff, who died in 1754, lived opposite the present school site. The Corys, Jonathan, Joseph and Benjamin, lived down the road further toward Scotch Plains. Joseph died in 1782 and left everything to his oldest son, Jonathan. He owned all the property from New Providence Road on both sides of the highway down as far as Cook's farm, while Deacon Samuel Woodruff owned the property where the school now is, and all that up the mountain from about where Evergreen Court now is, down to New Providence Road.

One of the grandest affairs in this area for many years was the banquet given by Andrew Cory in 1804. About 1000 people had been celebrating the election of Thomas Jefferson for the



"Mole Hill" (Moxon's) supposedly built by Ichabod Clark before the Revolution

second time as President of the United States (that was a large crowd at that time). They had gathered on Baltus Roll mountain for a general jollification, and many of them went on to the dinner at Cory's.

THE LEGEND OF BALTUS ROLL

At the top of Summit Road was the home of Baltus Roll. This house has been remodeled several times. At least a part of it was built by the Dutch Settler, Johannes Roll, who died in 1783, but it has become known as the home of Baltus Roll, grandson of Johannes Roll, due to his murder there in 1831.

I've heard the story many times from my grandmother, whose mother told her. I think I can give it to you word for word, as the story went at that time.

Baltus Roll's wife was alone with him at the time and she described what happened that night as follows. "We had retired early, and about midnight were awakened by a pounding on the door. Two men forced their way in; one of them large, the other small. They seized Roll, drew him from the bed, slatted him about the room, and dragged him to the door." Later the large man came to the stairs and told her to remain in her room, but when he went out she followed. She saw two men tying Baltus, and then they threw him in a puddle of icy water. He twice called to her, but "after that he didn't make any noise and I thought he was dead."

She wandered through the sleet and rain in the snow-covered woods until she was exhausted. Returning to the house, she saw Roll lying in a snowbank, bound hand and foot, and lifeless. She did not go in for fear the murderers were still there, but went to the house of a neighbor, Jesse Cahoon, and when he heard her story he summoned Brook Sayre (her husband's cousin) and Joseph Cain, who lived down the road. They thought Mrs. Roll had lost her mind but returned to the house with her. Inside was great confusion.

The news spread through the country. It was the crime of the century! All the papers gave full details. Suspicion at once settled upon Peter B. Davis and Lycidias Baldwin, ne'er-do-wells who had been seen frequently in the locality. Davis was known

to be desperately in need of cash and to have sought an accomplice to go with him to a place where they could "get a thousand dollars." Roll was supposed to have kept a considerable sum of money hidden somewhere in his house.

When Baldwin heard that the police had arrested Davis, he fled to Morristown and committed suicide in a room at the tavern. Davis was tried at a special session of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, in Newark, before Chief Justice Ewing. Although evidence pointed strongly to his guilt, he was acquitted because of the fact that some of the most damaging testimony was admittedly ruled out as "illegal." During the trial, however, he admitted forgery, and was afterwards arraigned before the Court on four indictments, to three of which he pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to eight years on each count, and died in prison. Today, the name of Baltus Roll is legend in the hills of his birth, and an historic roadway, and an internationally known golf course bear his name. His home is now the property of Anne Batchelder.

THE MOUNTAINSIDE COUNTERFEITER

Did I ever tell you about the counterfeiter that used to be in this section? No? Well, it was a long time ago. His name was Henry Krawfit, or something like that. He lived up the mountain-side on the left hand side of New Providence Road, below the fork, all alone in a little house. He was mighty shy with strangers, only speaking to people when it was absolutely necessary for him to go into town for supplies. His workshop was in a back room, shaded by an arbor of honeysuckle, and they say there was a lamp burning there most of the time when he was home, but nobody could see what was going on inside. Later on, it was discovered that he had pots full of different shades of ink, all kinds of steel pens, some sharp as needles, and packages of paper all cut to regulation size for greenbacks. Nobody ever found out where he got all these things, but it was thought he had a confederate of some sort in the city.

You smile as though you thought there was a catch in it, but I'm telling you what was passed on to me. This Krawfit was extraordinarily smart. He didn't rely on dies and other such tell-

tale paraphernalia to fool the experts. He did it all with his own hands, and there has been none to match him in his line of deception, before or since, they say. Why, his counterfeits were declared to be such perfect specimens that when one of them was set alongside the genuine article, the government specialists could scarcely tell the difference with a microscope.

As he had no help, Krawfit could do only about two bills a week. He had to be careful to cash them in different towns and places, because they were all of one denomination—\$20 bills—and they looked like they had just come from the Mint. But somebody hereabouts must have become suspicious, because bills that size didn't grow on trees in those days, and usually they'd seen plenty of wear by the time they reached these parts. And Krawfit must have gotten suspicious too, for all of a sudden he packed up and left for parts unknown, and nothing more was heard of him until a secret serviceman came to town and told of his capture at White House, New Jersey.

It seems that Krawfit ran short of cash after he'd been a week or so at White House, so he went to the tavern to get one of his new bills changed into legal tender and a little something on the side. The story is that the barkeeper's hands were wet from "Jersey Lightnin'" and some of the ink on the bill rubbed off onto his fingers. The bartender had heard there were some bogus \$20 bills being passed around and these ink stains were what he considered evidence of guilt, so he shoved Krawfit into a closet and went for the sheriff.

It was a strange thing about that man. They say that the authorities were so overcome by his skill that they offered to suspend his sentence and give him a job making designs for legitimate money. But, what did he do but refuse! Said he'd rather serve time, so they gave him six years at hard labor. Guess he was one of those queer chaps the psychology professors talk about.

Roster of Families in this Section

1740—1800

ANTHONY BADGLEY

JAMES BADGLEY

JOHN BADGLEY

DEACON SAMUEL BROOKS

ICHABOD CLARK

JACOB CLARK

NOAH CLARK

JOHN COLLINS

BENJAMIN CORY, SENIOR

JONATHAN CORY

JOSEPH CORY

JONOTHAN CRANE

GEORGE C. FRAZEE

JOHN FRENCH

JOHN HAMILTON

DEACON ANDREW HETFIELD

JOHN MILLS

SAMUEL MILLS

WILLIAM MILLS

ABRAHAM MILLER

ABRAHAM ROLL

JOHANNES ROLL

JOHN SCUDDER, JR.

JONATHAN SMITH

SMITH WILLIAMS

THOMAS WILLIS

DANIEL WOODRUFF

NOAH WOODRUFF

SAMUEL WOODRUFF

THOMAS WOODRUFF

SQUIRE JONATHAN WOODRUFF

Revolutionary Period

You know that New Jersey was a great battleground in the Revolutionary War. Mountainside, however, saw none of the battles on her own grounds. Raids, yes, for the section was often in British hands.

However, after searching the records, it is known that James Badgley, George Frazee, Deacon Andrew Hetfield, Noah Woodruff, Thomas Woodruff, Ichabod Clark and Squire Jonathan Woodruff saw active service. George Frazee, Noah Woodruff and Ichabod Clark were with the famous "Jersey Blues." Jonathan Woodruff was supposed to be one of the volunteers under Lord Stirling, who captured the "Blue Mountain Valley," an armed supply boat sent off from warships in New York to transport ships lying outside, off Sandy Hook. There's a little note in the box here that Squire Woodruff put in a claim for "24 pounds, 16 Shilling and 3 Pence, for depredations made by the enemy during the years 1776-77." That's for things he lost in raids by the British.

Springfield Road, or "Road to Springfield" as they called it then, was the passageway for General Washington. I remember reading in "Judgement Sustained" that "Washington left New Brunswick on July 11th, proceeding to Paramus, New Jersey, by way of Scotch Plains and Springfield." Springfield Road is shown on the maps of that time. His armies and scouts also traversed the roads up the mountains many times, both while Washington was stationed at Pluckemin and Morristown, and while moving down to New Market, Plainfield and Bound Brook, in various skirmishes with the British.

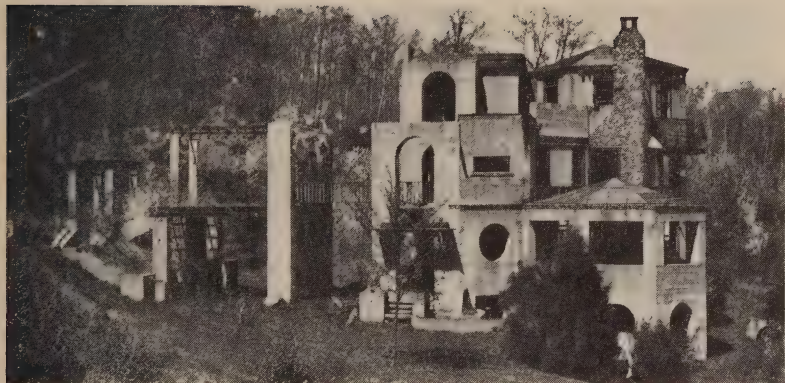
SUMMING UP

Well, son, that's about all there is in the old box. The family was never one to set down daily happenings, except my great-grandma, so I can't tell you anything about who fought in the later wars—1812, War Between the States, Spanish-American War, or the First World War.

Our family's been in them all, and the neighbors' too, but this period, up through and including the Spanish-American War, was so merged with Westfield, and the breaking away,

that it would be hard to separate our boys from those of Westfield. I remember the Honor Roll during the First World War, and you can bet the Dads of most of the children you know were in it, but I can't sit here and give you their names, offhand.

Well, it's getting late. No more stories today. But I'll tell you what I'll do. Tomorrow, and every day thereafter, I'll tell you the big story of how Mountainside developed, and the story of how all the departments, organizations, and everything else started, till you know about them all. I think if we take one each day, you'll remember them better.



Alfred Pearsall's "Pot Luck"—or "The Old Pearsall Castle." The corner stone read 1907, but the building was never completed. Practically all of the stones have been spirited away since the builder's dream died with him. *Courtesy, John Edwards.*



Beaman's Blacksmith Shop—Site of early elections—(just back of where the Mountainside Drug store now stands). *Courtesy, John Edward.*



Bill Meyer's Store (next to Nolte's)—as it stood about 1924. *Courtesy, C. Herrick.*



Bliwise's General Store when it stood at the present Park entrance.
Courtesy, John Edwards



Two views of the "Old Swimmin' Hole"—These should bring happy memories to the "not-so-old-generation." Now partially drained and condemned.
Courtesy, C. Herrick.

CHAPTER II

The New Borough

FOR some time the rural sections of Westfield had not been satisfied and finally, at a mass meeting of the taxpayers and voters of the northern part of Westfield Township, Union County, held July 16, 1895, at the Locust Grove Schoolhouse, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Township of Westfield contains an area of about twelve square miles in the Southern half of which the village of Westfield containing less than two square miles is situated, and

WHEREAS, the Northern section of the Township has been for years and is now taxed for the maintenance of a fire department and lighting of streets in the village and

WHEREAS, there has never been a public light, and the fire department has never served in the Northern part of the Township, and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee have now begun to construct a sewer in the village, for the cost of which they propose to bond the Township, and

WHEREAS, the Westfield Village Fire Department, the Westfield Village street lights, the Westfield Village sewer and other Westfield Village improvements never have been and never can be of any advantage to us whatever, and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee have turned a deaf ear to our strenuous protests against the injustice of compelling us to pay for improvements in a village remote from our section, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we sanction and approve the action of the self-constituted Committee who have thus far had the matter in charge and who now report favorably upon the feasibility and constitutionality of a separate government for ourselves.

RESOLVED, that we proceed according to the statute made and provided, to organize a Borough in the Northern part of Westfield Township, to contain not more than four square miles, to include Locust Grove, Branch Mills, and Baltusrol, said Borough to be known as the "Borough of Mountainside," and further be it

RESOLVED, that a committee of three be appointed, representing Locust Grove, Branch Mills and Baltusrol, to carry these resolutions into effect.

A Committee of three was appointed—William Miller, Charles Badgley and Joseph W. Cory, representing respectively Branch Mills, Baltusrol and Locust Grove, to carry these resolutions into effect. These resolutions were signed by William Schoonover, Chairman, and Joseph W. Cory, Secretary. They were set forth in a pamphlet published by this Committee, notifying the public that a special election would be held at the Locust Grove Schoolhouse on the 24th of September, 1895 (6 a.m. to 7 p.m.), to determine the will of the people as to whether or not the Borough should be incorporated.

The Pamphlet continues:

The Committee appointed at the meeting of July 16th has taken steps, as directed, to carry these resolutions into effect. Under the direction of counsel an accurate description of the proposed Borough of Mountainside has been made, and the requisite signatures have been obtained to a petition for an election to determine whether the proposed Borough shall be incorporated. This petition has been granted and the day has been set for the election. There is every reason to believe that the district is practically unanimous in favor of the borough.

The Committee, however, feels that its duty is not fully performed without a few words to the voters of the proposed Borough.

Let it be clearly understood that we do not want to shirk the payment of a dollar of our just taxes. We want to pay every cent that we rightly owe. Let it be clearly understood that we do not object to improvements in the village of Westfield. Let the village have her sewer, her street lights, her fire department, her water supply, her parks and any other improvements that she wants or thinks she wants. But let her pay for them herself. We are miles away from her, where her improvements can never reach; they will never benefit us to the amount of one cent. The drain on us for her village improvements has continued too long, and the time for putting an end to it has come.

We are told that we receive an indirect benefit from the village improvements, and therefore we should help to pay for them. This indirect benefit is so remote that it is imperceptible to us. We receive more benefit from the improvements of Fanwood, Scotch Plains, New Providence, Glenside, Summit and Springfield, for these places are nearer to most of us than the village of Westfield. The improvements of the City of New York are of vastly more benefit to us than those of the village. The Westfield villagers tell us that they are sorry to have to compel us to pay for their local improvements but that they must have them to hold their own against neighboring towns which are competing with theirs for population, and that they can raise the money only by bonding the whole Township.

Let us see if this be so. Could they not form a borough in which they could make such improvements as they wish, and bond their borough for the cost? Certainly they could but they will not. They mean to slap a mortgage on our farms and use our money to boom their village lots. This leaves us no alternative. They have driven us to form the Borough of Mountainside.

THE WESTFIELD VILLAGE SEWER, according to the original plan, was to cost \$30,000. It is now certain that it will cost \$150,000. How much more no one can say. A farm of 100 acres has been bought for \$10,000 for a disposal bed, but no one can tell what the plant for this disposal bed will cost or what will be the expense of operating it. No one can tell how much will have to be paid to owners of property damaged by the disposal bed or what the sewer repairs and superintendence will cost. Water to flush the pipes in every street must be bought from the Union Water Company at its price. You, whose property is miles away from this sewer, will have to pay for all these things and more, if you remain in the Township.

No doubt there is money in this sewer scheme for some. The contractors who supply the pipe, the contractors who lay it, the company which sells the water, the engineer who superintends the work, and real estate men who have village lots to sell—these few will be benefited. But how about the people of Westfield who will have to pay the sewer bonds, the interest on them and for the sewer repairs and maintenance? To the farmers and others in the outlying districts, the scheme means ruin.

OUR TAXES heretofore, though not intolerable, have been high enough. With the taxes as they have been our best farms do not pay one cent per annum on their value, and many good farms are rented for less than the present taxes. The tenants have a hard time to scrape the rent together and make a bare living. If they are compelled to pay higher taxes, levied to boom the lots of a distant village, they will be driven from their homes. The action of the Town Committee tends to bring about this result.

Why is it that men will do in a corporate capacity what they would scorn to do as private individuals? This scheme to fasten a mortgage on our farms for village improvements is morally indefensible. Such acts foster the pestilent brood of tramps, Coxeyites and anarchists with which our country is infested. When town officials set such an example, the depredations on our farms by minor offenders must be expected. Such acts by those who profess to believe in the Golden Rule bring the Christian religion into contempt and keep honest thinking men away from our churches.

We are given to understand that, to mitigate the injustice of taxing us for village improvements, our assessed values will be made low. This does not satisfy us. The present Town Committee may make our assessed values low; but a Town Committee is not a permanent body, it changes every year. A Town Committee can bond a Township, and the bonds cover all the Township property until they are paid by the people. A Town Committee cannot bind its successors in office. It cannot say what our assessed values shall be next year, or any future year.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL QUESTION will be in no way affected by the formation of our borough. The school tax is a State tax, which we shall pay to the Borough instead of the Town as heretofore. The borough will have the same right to send its children to the Westfield schools as we have now. We shall remain, as we are now, part owners in these schools.

THE TROLLEY seems to be a subject foreign to the matter that we have on hand, but to a charming but practically inaccessible suburban district, within twenty miles of the great and growing metropolis, it is the question of the day. Now, those who control this Township have their interests centered within the limits of the village of Westfield. They mean to develop those interests and to make use of the outlying districts of the town to develop them. They will never permit an electric road to pass through our section if they can prevent it, because they believe it would draw population away from them and toward us. Our Borough will be bounded on the north by New Providence and Summit Townships. It will stretch from Springfield on the east, to Fanwood on the west. The southern boundary will include the County road from Springfield to Plainfield, and when a traction company next applies for a franchise through our section the application will be, not to the Township of Westfield, but to the Borough of Mountainside. With an electric road through our Borough from Plainfield to Newark, at any hour, for a nickel, we could make the trip to or from Newark, one of our largest cities, where every kind of goods can be had, and where a dollar will go very much farther than in Westfield. Of course, the Westfield villagers oppose the trolley. They want not only to tax us for their local improvements but also to make us deal in their shops.

THE COST OF RUNNING OUR BOROUGH should be light. What should we have to pay for beyond what we pay for now? Of course, we should have to pay the State and County taxes the same as we do now, and we should have to pay the salaries of our Borough officers as we now pay the salaries of the Township officers. Our officers would have little to do and should serve for the honor of the position and a nominal sum. There would be no other considerable expense than that of keeping the roads in repair. We pay the town for that now, and the condition of our roads is not only disgraceful but dangerous. We could have good roads with what we now pay for the village light, fire department and hydrants.

THE DEBT OF WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP, for sewers and other improvements which are useless to us, will soon be so great that it will be impossible to free ourselves. From our mountain side we can see communities which have become bankrupt through the craze for extravagant city improvements and the inordinate haste to get rich at some one else's expense. We do not want to look down upon another bankrupt town. If we must, we need not form a part of it unless we choose; but our choice must be made now.

HOME RULE, THE FOUNDATION OF GOOD GOVERNMENT, is impossible for us so long as we remain a part of a Township governed by three men representing only a village several miles distant from, and lying several hundred feet lower than a large part of our territory; a vil-

lage ambitious for city improvements beyond its means; improvements which could never reach us, but for which we should have to pay. The wants of Westfield Village are not our wants. We do not want a \$50,000 town hall; but if the Town Committee determines to build one, we shall have to pay for it if we remain in the Township. The prospect for our section, as an outlying village appendage, is hopeless. We can secure home rule, and consequently good government, in one way only—by the formation of the Borough.

The Committee has so far performed the duties for which it was appointed and the opportunity is now presented to the voters of the proposed Borough to defend their rights. Remember that, to every one of you, this is a matter of dollars and cents; but do not forget that it is more than this. A PRINCIPLE IS AT STAKE. We deny the right to tax a farm for city improvements miles away from it. We deny the right to tax wild woodland for a sewer which a sewer can never reach. Our fathers would not submit to unjust taxation. They asked for redress, but were treated as the Town Committee of Westfield treats us. They were compelled to declare their independence. They fought for us and they won. You have declared your independence. Vote for it and you will win it.

(Signed) WILLIAM MILLER
CHARLES BADGLEY
JOSEPH W. CORY

FREEHOLDERS WHO PETITIONED FOR THE PROPOSED BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE

Badgley, Charles	French, Winfield S.	Parkhurst, A. M.
Badgley, John M.	Fritz, Christian	Parkhurst, Martha, Exec.
Balderston, Mary G.	Gaffney, T. St. John	Phelan, Timothy
Ball, Theodore A.	Granger, E. J.	Perrine, John C.
Bassett, Caroll P.	Hamilton, Jacob	Perrine, Lizzie
Brown, F. N.	Holmes, Chas. H.	Robbins, Louis S.
Burtis, Jane E.	Holmes, H. J., Sr.	Roff, Charles W.
Chandler, G.W. & R.R.	Holmes, James B.	Roll, Eliza
Crocheron, Nicholas	Howells, J. C., Sr.	Roll, John B.
Cory, Joseph W.	Kerr, George C.	Roll, John B., Exec.
Darby, Anna	Klopf, John	Roll, S. Augusta
Darby, Elston	Knoll, A. J.	Senior, Mrs. William
Darby, Levi J.	Long, George B.	Seibert, George C.
Darby, William	Lloyd, Emily	Speizer, Jacob
Dewey, Mrs. J. L.	MacLaurin, Roderick	Shipman, William
Dorvall, Jessie A.	MacMurray, M. J.	Schoonover, Julia
Dunham, Emeline	Marsters, Silas W.	Schoonover, William
Dunham, James K. P.	Miller, William	West, Mrs. Sarah C.
French, George W.	O'Connors, Anne E.	Wilcox, Benjamin L.
French, Lizzie C.	Osborn, Benjamin	Wilcox, Phebe E.

Well, the result was that the formation of the Borough was approved at the election on September 24, 1895, and the work of building up a government was started.

Five hundred dollars was borrowed to cover various expenses, one of which was \$80 for incorporation of the Borough, on October 22, 1895.

John B. Roll was appointed Clerk of the election of officers, and William Schoonover and William Darby as Inspectors, by Judge McCormick of Elizabeth.

The nomination of officers was held at 8 p.m., October 16, 1895, at John Klopf's Mountainside Hotel on Springfield Road (now occupied by the Chatterbox).

The October 22, 1895, election was held at Beaman's Blacksmith Shop (in back of where the Mountainside Drug Store is located; and where a lot of politics was settled around an old pot stove). The first elected officers of the Borough were:

Mayor, Joseph W. Cory; Councilmen, Chas. Badgley, Theo. A. Ball, William Schoonover, John B. Roll and George T. Robbins; Clerk, Charles Forster; Collector and Treasurer, W. B. Stiles; Constable, James O'Connors; Surveyor of Highways, Wm T. Young; Commissioner of Appeal, J. M. Beaman; Overseer of Poor, J. H. W. Edwards.

With reference to the position of Clerk, Jos. W. Mulford resigned; James Buck was nominated but would not serve. Charles Forster accepted the nomination but would not take the salary offered. On appealing to the Council, he arranged to have them set aside the \$50 salary to accumulate toward paying for the building of a Borough Hall.

The Borough Council meetings were held at Klopf's Mountainside Hotel until June 1904, when they were moved to the school (first meeting there July 12, 1904). At the first meeting of the Council in 1895, Mayor Cory delivered the following message:

In presenting to you a general review of the work that has been placed in our hands, it is needless to say the large number of people who are awaiting this message are still closely allied to the Township of Westfield.

Hence it is our first duty to be very prudent to prevent a forfeiture of rights that are ours in fact and in law. The attention of the Council is called to perfect the organization. The salaries of the Assessor and the Collector are to be fixed. The different boroughs that I have visited for

information, pay a fixed salary, thus avoiding disputes as to the amounts due these officers. The special percentages that are sometimes allowed are as a rule very unsatisfactory. The Borough of North Plainfield pays the Assessor one-half as much as they do the collector for the following reason, that under Borough law the collector acts also as Treasurer and no additional charge is allowed for such services as is allowed by the Township laws. In fixing the collector's salary let us be fair in considering the different environment of the two Boroughs. North Plainfield is more densely populated with its taxpayers for the greater part residents, while Mountainside taxes will be paid largely by non-residents and in the non-payment of taxes they will be more difficult to reach and thus more traveling expense is incurred by the collectors. The approximate amount of the taxes paid by the Borough to the Township this year is about \$3000 for which the Collector receives the sum of \$85 and the Treasurer about \$30.

Now it is not advisable for us to elect a Board of Health until a higher power makes it mandatory upon us to do so, hence it becomes the duty of the assessor and collector to record vital statistics free of charge. As a committee on the Collector's Bond, I suggest the names of Messrs. Ball, Schoonover, and Robbins, and as the amount of the State and County taxes this year is \$1132.80, the attorney advises that the amount of the collector's bond be placed at \$2000.00. As to the settlement with the Township of Westfield our attorney advises that it is necessary to present a claim for the distribution of the unexpended funds within thirty days after our organization as a council.

Public schools: The law of 1895, page 504, section third, shows that until there are 400 children within the Borough limits, we are entitled to consolidation in the matter of expenses for the support and maintenance, but our council suggests that we maintain our own school building and that in the agreement between the Borough and the Township there be classes of requisition to adjust the value of property as formerly constituted in districts and to enable the just proportion of school taxes for the support of the township schools. By adopting this course, the people of the Borough are relieved of paying the \$2500 of bonded indebtedness, also the paying our proportion of the \$35,000 of equity held by the former school District No. 10.

As to the matter of sewerage, it is now too previous to give any detailed line to pursue.

In concluding, let us show our good judgement by not asking of the people of the Borough and the Township unreasonable gains, but we are not to be made to think that we are still subject to Township taxes. The laws of 1895, page 210, section 1, show that we have a fair chance to hope for a reasonable administration of the public affairs.

Board of Health

The Borough found it necessary to form a Board of Health on July 8, 1902, to take over public health affairs, and vital statistics.

President of the group was John F. Dorvall; Secretary, George W. Smith. Present members are: Henry Pfeiffer, President; Charles

Wades, Vice President; Mrs. Bernard Buck, Secretary and Registrar of Vital Statistics; and Richard Keller. Health Officer is William Wilsey; Child Hygiene Nurse is Mrs. Hermine Lins, and the Doctor, Lee Herrington.

The continued good health of the community as a whole, throughout its years, is a testament to the Board's vigilance.

The Planning Board

A Planning Board was formed quite a few years ago, but was recently re-organized to devise a master plan for development of the Borough, north of the Highway 29, with respect to roads and certain improvements in connection with drainage—the biggest Borough headache to date. They have also made recommendations regarding zoning.

Present members are: Chairman, Andrew Farrell; Vice President, Mrs. F. Rosenstiehl; Secretary, Lloyd Manley; also Mayor Moxon (ex-officio), Herman Honecker, building inspector; Arthur Lennox, Borough engineer; Richard Whetsel, and Councilman Joseph Komich.

The Heart of the Borough

On July 17, 1908, a lot was purchased from the Ball estate, and construction started on the Borough Hall. The first Council meeting was held there on January 1, 1910.

Considerable remodeling has been done on the Hall since then, the latest being completed early in 1944, at a cost of \$657. This included a new lower ceiling and insulation on the second floor to conserve heat and improve lighting, a ladies' room and a men's room on the second floor; painting throughout; storm sash and insulation in Police Headquarters, and many other smaller improvements.

Besides Council meeting rooms, the building also includes Police Headquarters, Tax Collector's and Clerk's offices, and, at present, Defense Council rooms. The second floor auditorium is used also by the Red Cross Bandage group, the Boy Scouts, and as a general meeting room for various local organizations. It has also been the scene of many enjoyable entertainments and functions. The "not-so-old-timers" still smack their lips over the chicken dinners the Fire Department once held here.



Mountainside's Borough Hall—showing also the annex that houses the Rescue Squad and used to house the Fire Truck as well.

LEST WE FORGET!

Mayors who have so ably assisted in governing the Borough through the years, were:

Joseph W. Cory	October 1895 to March 1901
Hugh H. MacMurray	1901 to September 1902
Aaron Parkhurst	1902 to 1906
Joseph W. Cory	1906 to 1909
William Schoonover	1909 to 1910
C. A. Baechtold	1910—resigned April 2, 1915
Rufus P. Eastman, President of Council,	appointed April 2, 1915
Frederick C. Gordon	1916 to 1922
Robert Coles	1922 to 1924
Fred Rumpf	1924 to 1928
Louis S. Robbins	1928 to 1930
Percy Cook	1930 to 1931
August C. Rader	1931 to 1934
Robert Davidson	1934 to 1938
Alan Thompson	1938 to 1942
John Moxon	1942 to 1945

OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH—1945

<i>Mayor</i>	John Moxon (resigned June 1945, office filled by President of Council, Meirl C. Hoy)
<i>Councilmen</i>	Norman Woolley William Parkhurst E. Frederick Joseph Komich Albert Hartung
<i>Clerk</i>	Robert Laing (who has served for many years — 1908 to 1914, and from 1918 until now)
<i>Assistant Clerk</i>	Mrs. C. M. Julick
<i>Overseer of the Poor</i> . . .	Mrs. Thomas Doyle
<i>Recorder</i>	William Winckler
<i>Attorney</i>	Augustus Dreier
<i>Auditor</i>	Samuel Freedman
<i>Building Inspector</i> . . .	Herman Honecker
<i>Assessor</i>	Charles Herrick
<i>Collector</i>	W. F. Lanning
<i>Dog Warden</i>	Harold VanFleet (also Scotch Plains Warden)
<i>Janitor of Borough Hall</i> .	J. Schweitzer

"PLANS THAT WENT AWRY"

Excerpts from the "Elizabeth Daily Journal," August 1925:

SEE ADVANTAGES IN COMBINATION

Some Westfield Eyes on Mountainside.

Special to the Journal

WESTFIELD, Aug. 6.—A plan to stimulate sentiment in favor of the annexation of Mountainside by Westfield is being fostered by several members of the Business Men's Association of Westfield, who believe there is a mutual advantage to the municipalities involved in such action.

Although the movement found its origin among members of the Business Men's Association, independent of official sanction by the organization, it is said the proposition is one that will meet favor from the Westfield Board of Realtors, which has taken a keen interest in advancing realty interests throughout this district.

The advantage to Westfield of the annexation, it has been pointed out, would be in the extension of territory to include some of the finest properties in Union County. Westfield proper is rapidly being built up, and the extra territory, which would be secured if the borough were annexed, would satisfy the needs of home-seekers and developers for many years.

The advantages to residents of the borough are pointed out as being more numerous. Proponents of the scheme declare that the fact of association with Westfield would immediately heighten real estate values and result in the start of development. The extension of Westfield's fire and police facilities would be made at once to include Mountainside, giving the assurance of better protection.

Probably the strongest advantage to residents of Mountainside is said to be the reduction of the tax rate, which is now higher than Westfield's. The unification of municipal governments under one head would do away with the expense now entailed in the maintenance and reduce costs of town officers, materials and equipment offices and systems.

At present the Union County Park Commission is developing two parks, which take in Mountainside property, one at Echo Lake and one at Silver Lake. These parks necessarily do not contribute revenue to the borough, and remove an additional amount of money from the budget, which could be collected in taxes if the land were owned by individuals. Annexation, it is said, would relieve the borough financially in this matter.

It is said there are many people who would like to live at Mountainside if the facilities in water supply, sewage disposal, police and fire protection were better.

In a recent post-prandial address Joseph R. Connolly, president of the Westfield Trust Company, and former Mayor of Westfield under the township form of government, predicted the extension of Westfield ultimately to the top of the Watchung Range, virtually a prediction that Mountainside would join with Westfield some time.

Followers of the idea profess to know that residents of Mountainside have had the subject broached to them, and that they were receptive to

it on account of promised reduction of their tax rate, now extraordinarily high, improvement in realty values, and the economy of the unification idea.

MERGER PROJECT DRAWS CRITICISM

Mountainside Annexation by Westfield Is Hit.

Special to the Journal

WESTFIELD, Aug. 12—Indications that the agitation begun recently for the annexation of Mountainside by Westfield does not meet with the unanimous approval of residents of the borough, have been given out by those who believe the results of such a merger would prove eminently satisfactory to Westfield, but rather barren for Mountainside.

The prospect of providing acreage for the extension of Westfield is not pleasing to public-spirited citizens of the borough. The name "Westfield" is held as a stimulus to the booming of realty values. Although the tax rate might be lowered if the borough and town united, the valuations would doubtless be assessed at a higher rate, it is pointed out.

Residents of Mountainside acknowledge that the overhead necessitated by the maintenance of function by two governmental bodies might be considerably reduced by annexation. They also admit substantial losses to local revenue by the condemnation of 800 acres for county parks, but declare that this has caused almost no financial inconvenience. They believe the parks will play an important part in increasing property values.

Since Westfield and Mountainside are both supplied with water by the Plainfield Union Water Company, the boroughites can see little advantage in water facilities by annexation. In matters of sewage they protest that Westfield's present system of disposal is so inadequate that the State Department of Health has had to demand improvements. Mountainside, it is said, unless able to hook up with a trunk line sewer through Cranford, will become involved with the necessity of installing a pumping station of its own.

Showing that they have given careful thought to the problem of annexation, borough residents are anxious to follow any plan that will meet the approval of the majority of residents. The opinions of those who live on the town line and therefore are anxious for annexation, they believe, must be subordinated to the wishes of the larger number who hold farm and mountain land, and who prefer the rural life.

CHAPTER III

Safety Departments

POLICE DEPARTMENT

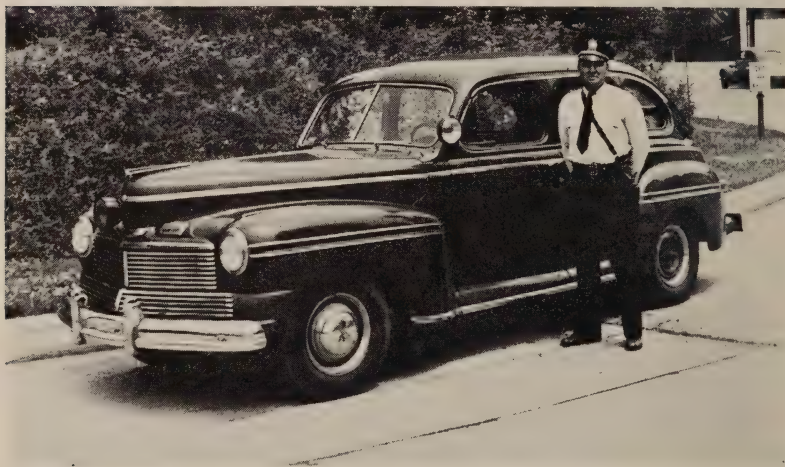
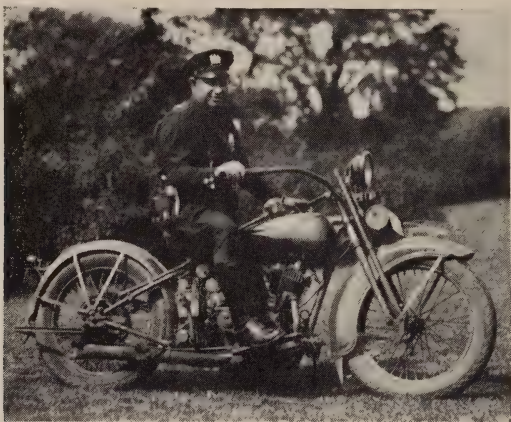
UP until 1934, there was no regular Police Department in the Borough. Chief Marshals, Justices of Peace, Recorders looked after this division of government up until that time. The first elected Constable was James O'Connor in 1895. He was followed in 1896 by Jacob Holms and Adam Huffman. Then came George Boyton who served as Chief Marshal until 1924. In that year, Eugene Kachelreiss was appointed Chief Marshal and he served until the end of 1927. The next two years saw Robert McCullum in charge of law and order, and he was replaced in 1930 by Louis Heckel. In 1931 and 1932 Edward Hamilton was Chief Marshal, assisted by Deputy Chief Marshal Charles Honecker. In 1933, the latter became Chief Marshal, and served in that capacity for two years.

In 1934 the Borough Council passed an Ordinance creating a regular Police Department. Charles Honecker was appointed as the first regular Chief of Police in the month of June, at a salary of \$1400 per year.

Chief Honecker served alone until Lieutenant Fred Roeder was appointed as a patrolman in 1936. Christian Fritz was appointed patrolman on December 1, 1937, Frank Salzer (now in the Army) in 1939, and Harry Boyton in 1942.

Radio equipment was installed in the patrol car in July 1941. Police Headquarters now has the direct convenience of a teletype. Prior to March 3, 1944, this type of information was relayed from Scotch Plains Headquarters, over the Borough's Police hookup.

In addition to their regular patrols, the Police report (take 1943 for example) shows a variety of calls to duty. 382 entries in police blotter, 388 calls for police service answered, 25 fire calls answered, 20 ambulance calls, 35 automobile accidents, 15 persons injured in auto accidents, 3 deaths by such accidents, 2 pedestrians struck by autos, one killed by auto, two bicycles



Showing the stage between foot patrols and the modern radio car equipment.

Top: Lieutenant Fred Roeder. Below: Chief Charles Honecker.

struck by cars, two hit-and-run cases reported, 3 cars reported afire, and 14 injured persons taken to hospitals. Also 18 persons sick or injured in and about their homes requesting Police aid, 12 reports of missing persons investigated, 9 missing persons located, 8 persons bitten by dogs, 21 stray dogs picked up, 15 dogs destroyed by Police, 19 lost dogs reported, 225 dog licenses issued, 10 lost dogs found and returned, 45 complaints on dogs, 65 street lights reported "out," 5 traffic lights reported "out," 8 canvassers' permits issued, 7 doors found open at business places, 24 requests to watch unoccupied houses, 15 requests for outside aid from other Police departments, 2 stolen cars reported, 2 such cars recovered, 14 suspicious persons investigated, 8 thefts investigated and 3 break-ins reported. Also 23 reports of malicious mischief investigated, 22 disorderly persons investigated, 6 bicycles reported stolen, 5 bicycles recovered, one arson case investigated, 28 special assignments, 22 investigations for FBI and War Departments, 6 investigations for OPA and Selective Service, 6 Army convoys assisted, 60 air raid alerts received, 12 air raid alarms, one person apprehended for larceny, 6 persons apprehended for malicious mischief, one person apprehended with stolen car in possession, and one person apprehended in hit-and-run case. Also 154 arrests for traffic violations, 2 arrests for larceny, 11 arrests for disorderly persons, one each arrested for assault, bastardy, adultery and causing death by auto, 4 arrests for vagrancy, 8 detained in Borough lock-up, 6 persons sent to county jail, 5 held for Grand Jury, 94 fingerprints taken by Lt. Fred Roeder, 150 cash bail bonds taken, and 21 warnings issued to dog owners. That's quite a list for a small force.

This February, Scotch Plains Local 87, Patrolmen's Benevolent Association with which Mountainside Police are affiliated, voted to join in membership with the Union County P.B.A. and the Firemen's Mutual Benefit Association.

Recorders who have served the Borough are: E. R. Collins, 1913—1921; J. F. Millett, January to July 1921; William Winckler, 1921—1924; Ernest Roeder, 1924—1927; William Winckler, 1927 to July 1930; Mayor Cook, July 1930 to October 1930; Frederick Spitzhoff, October 1930 to 1933; Mayor's Court, A. C. Rader, 1933; Frederick Spitzhoff, 1934; Fred Rumpf, 1935; Frederick Spitzhoff, 1936; Mayor's Court, Robert Davidson, 1937;

Frederick Rumpf, 1938; Albert J. Benninger, 1939—1941; Charles Dunn, 1942—1943—early 1944 until he entered armed services. William Winckler was appointed in April 1944, and re-appointed in 1945.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 1910, Mayor Baechtold approached Robert Laing regarding the organization of a Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Laing worked with C. B. Heckel and H. C. Weber in setting up the Department, and before long quite a large group was trying to hold meetings at the Borough Hall. I say “trying,” because Constable George Boyton didn’t want to let them in, but finally Bob Laing obtained a key to the Hall—and the meetings were opened.

Those in the original group were: Charles B. Heckel, George Boyton, Jr., David Marsh, Albert P. Stewart, Walter Heckel, Joseph Lyons, Anthony Benesch, Louis S. Robbins, George C. Knoll, William Vanderbilt, Robert Laing, Alfred Heckel, Henry Weber, Stanley Roll, William VonBorstel, with William Brown as the first Fire Chief.

With the exception of William Brown, and the addition of Bob McCollum, this is the same group that was giving their services when the Department was incorporated as a non-profit-sharing organization (the members underwriting its debts), on May 17, 1915. In the same year they ceased to operate as a



The New Fire House on Highway 29 and Mountain Avenue



The Old Flying Thomas, with C. Heckel, A. J. Ayers, H. C. Weber, C. Herrick, Louis Heckel, Julius Courdts, Walter Byers, A. Benesch, George Boyton, Robert Laing, Fred Edwards, Al Heckel, David Marsh and R. VonSchultz. *Courtesy of Weber.*



The Reo, manned by R. VonSchultz, George Boyton, Louis Robbins, D. Marsh, A. Benesch, Henry Weber, C. B. Heckel, Louis Heckel, Walter Byers and Al Heckel. (Note original front of Fire House on Borough Hall —now site of Police Headquarters.) *Courtesy of Heckel.*

bucket brigade, when Mr. Laing located a used chemical engine in Westfield, for \$35. Henry Weber hitched it to his horse and buggy and brought it back to the Fire House (then part of the Borough Hall, where Police Headquarters is now located). This engine contained two seventy-gallon chemical tanks, and was drawn by Weber's horses until 1918, when "Hen" bought himself a truck. They still talk about the first fire call after this latter purchase—how, when "Hen" speeded up the road, Bob Laing turned white and hopped off the swaying chemical trailer, while those "lucky" enough to be seated on it, hung on for dear life.

The worst fire they encountered with that old chemical engine was when the greenhouses up at Ayers' burned in December 1916. It was so cold that when the horses had pulled the engine up the mountain, those chemical tanks were frozen. However, the boys seemed to have profited by their drills—they used to stack up cornstalks, barrels, etc., in Weber's fields, sound the gong, and let'er go. That gong was the old type railroad tire, sounded with a sledge hammer. It was donated to the Department by Garwood in 1915, and was used by our Borough until about eighteen years ago when the present siren was installed. The last fire the chemical engine saw was in late 1920, when Heckel's saw mill burned.

In 1921, C. B. Heckel and R. Laing signed a note for \$400 to cover the purchase of a Flying Thomas from Rahway. The engine was equipped with chemical tanks, so these same men signed an additional note for \$650 with which to purchase 500 feet of hose. In 1922 the Borough made its first Fire appropriation by taking over the note for the hose. For about four or five years thereafter, the Borough appropriated \$125 for equipment, and these appropriations have increased gradually through the years.

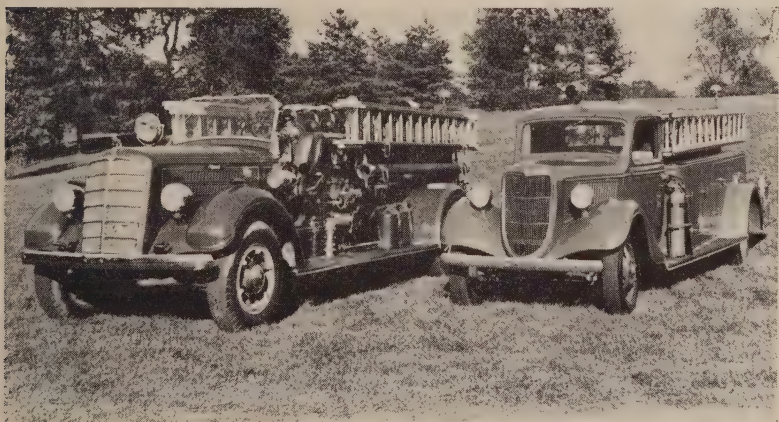
Money-raising has always been one of the extracurricular duties of the Firemen. Dances were held from 1910 until quite recently; yearly chicken dinners (with all the food donated, and prepared by borough women) at one dollar a plate; an occasional tag day, and more recently, card parties and amateur plays produced by Henry Sevcovic and acted in by Fireman and other borough residents, have all brought in money for fire equipment.

But to get back to the Flying Thomas. That was a good

engine, once they got it started—and the latter job really was something, to hear them tell it! In 1923, after a couple of years of hard cranking, the Department discussed the purchase of a new truck, and finally in 1924, they purchased a Reo chassis for \$1300 (notes again endorsed by C. B. Heckel and R. L. Laing). The men mounted the body of the Flying Thomas on the new chassis and George Boyton and Louis Heckel drove it to Buffalo to have a Hale 300 gallon pump installed. The \$1300 for the Reo was paid off in a year, and a like sum for the pump, plus traveling expenses for the two men, was paid in cash . . . part of this latter amount being covered by the \$452 taken in on a Tag Day. The finished engine was given a coat of paint by Fred Hansgen of Westfield, for about \$100. In 1932 the Reo was turned over to the Borough.

In 1939, the old wagon shed, which had housed the Police car, was remodeled into a Fire House, and the Reo was moved into its new home, but it didn't stay long, because it was replaced in 1940 by the present Mack.

In November, 1944, the Fire Department purchased a used Ford Chassis and beginning in December, designed the body into a piece of equipment which compares favorably with any custom-built job, costing considerably more than the \$1500.00 spent on the entire project (of which the Borough appropriated



The 1940 Mack and the rebuilt Ford—Our present fire fighting equipment

Photo by Zimmerman

\$900). The truck is estimated to be valued at \$4500. Several garages were used from time to time in the rebuilding of the Ford, and the men worked eighty different days for a total of 865 hours, making up 107 full working days.

The apparatus is equipped with a foam outfit, two ladders, 1000 feet of 2½" hose, 600 feet of 1½" hose, floodlights, generating system, brooms, salvage covers, carbon dioxide extinguishers, Indian pumps, ropes, masks, asbestos gloves, life belt, pike poles, axes and bars and miscellaneous tools.

With the acquisition of the new equipment, the Department now boasts of two pieces of regular apparatus at one time for the first time in its history. The following members worked on the project: Chief Herman Honecker, Harold Engleman, Charles Condon, Joseph Hershey, Elmer Hoffarth, Henry Sevcovic, William VanNest, Benjamin and Fred Nolte, Fabian Vincent, and Fred Wagner. Also contributing were: B. Nolte & Sons for use of tools, welding and shop; Tony Young of Somerset Bus Co. for painting; Jack McRae and Frank Perry, use of garages; Ed. McGuire and F. W. Rainier, use of tools; Chattin Brothers for seat covers; J. Young, car heater; and Ted VanHouten for motor work. The new piece of equipment was presented to the Borough at the 1944 Fourth of July celebration.

In July, 1944, the Borough passed an Ordinance for the expenditure of \$9000 to buy a garage building several hundred feet from the Borough Hall to be used, after remodeling and repairing, as the new fire house. The old quarters were unable to house two engines, plus the Rescue Squad Ambulance. The Firemen again donated their time in remodeling and repair work, and though they took formal possession in the early winter, were obliged to vacate the premises for a while, as their oil allowance was insufficient to keep the water in the trucks from freezing. Now that cold weather has passed, they are back in the new Fire House, and hope the heating situation permits occupancy next Winter.

Regular members of the Fire Department at the present time—not counting the Auxiliaries, about whom I'll tell you later under Defense News—are as follows: Chief, Herman E. Honecker; First Assistant Chief, Henry Sevcovic; Second Assistant Chief, Harold Engleman; Foreman, Joseph H. Hershey; Assistant Foreman, Elmer Hoffarth; and Fabian Vincent, *Fer-

dinand Wagner, William VanNest, F. Nolte, Charles Condon, Eric Scriba, B. Nolte, E. Hamilton, David Riker, *E. Hanewald, Francis Petersen, *John Keuler, and *Fred Onksen. Starred members are now serving in the armed forces.

Fire Chiefs through the years have been: William Brown in 1910; Jos. Lyons, 1911—1912; Chas. B. Heckel, 1913—1920; Alfred Heckel, 1921—1924; Sam Long, 1925; A. Benesch, 1926; H. Weber, 1927 and 1935; Louis Heckel, 1928; Robert Laing, 1929; Walter Byers, 1930; Alfred Heckel, 1931; Richard Von-Schultz; Jos. Lindenfelser, 1938—39—40, and the present Chief, Herman Honecker since 1941.

In 1935, Mr. Robert Davidson gave gold service badges to C. B. Heckel, Alfred Heckel, Henry Weber and Robert Laing for twenty-five years' service. A few years later, Anthony Benesch also received the gold badge. "Hen" Weber, who was the first elected Foreman of the Fire Department, in 1913, gave the Department its longest service—thirty years and six months.

As an example of the type and number of calls the Department makes, let's take the past year, 1944: forty-seven alarms—six dwellings, two business establishments, four motor vehicles, thirty-five brush fires. That constituted eighteen more calls than in 1943. To make the Borough residents "fire conscious," each year since 1941 the Department has sponsored essay contests among the school children on Fire Prevention.

The worst casualty suffered by the Department was the loss of Fred Schweitzer in 1932. He was electrocuted while fighting a fire in Weber's barn. It is to Mr. Schweitzer's memory that the flagpole at the Borough Hall was dedicated by the Firemen.

At the 1945 annual Firemen's Dinner, Mayor Moxon complimented the Borough on its present excellent fire-fighting equipment and personnel.

CHAPTER IV

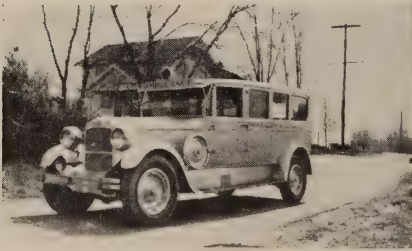
The Rescue Squad

IN September, 1938, the Mountainside Fire Department got to work on a plan which they had first considered in 1935: that of rescue work in cases of accident, illness or other emergencies. The police and firemen took courses in First Aid, and, in December, 1938, the Rescue Squad was fully organized, with Herman Honecker as Temporary Chairman and R. A. Jacobus, Secretary.

The date of the incorporation papers reads July 12, 1939, and the names of the members appearing thereon are: Herman E. Honecker, President; R. A. Jacobus, Secretary; Joseph Lindenfesler, Treasurer; F. Petersen, Captain; E. Hanewald, First Lieutenant; Russell Knapp, Second Lieutenant; and Charles Honecker, F. Bailey, Fred Roeder, C. Fritz, Fabian Vincent and John Keuler.

The first drive for funds was held in 1939 and the Fire Department advanced the first \$75. Through Mr. Donald Maxwell, Prall's Undertaking establishment in Roselle donated a hearse, and its remodeling into an ambulance began immediately. P. Bailey and R. A. Jacobus did the remodeling, while William Charters, Fabian Vincent and others worked on the engine. The Somerset Bus Company painted the ambulance with paint donated by Hall & Fuhs. Fred

Rumpf and Nolte Brothers donated the red light for the top, and Leslie Leet, the siren. The Mountainside Garden Club donated the Baumgartner cot, in memory of Mrs. August Rader. The remodeled car, has



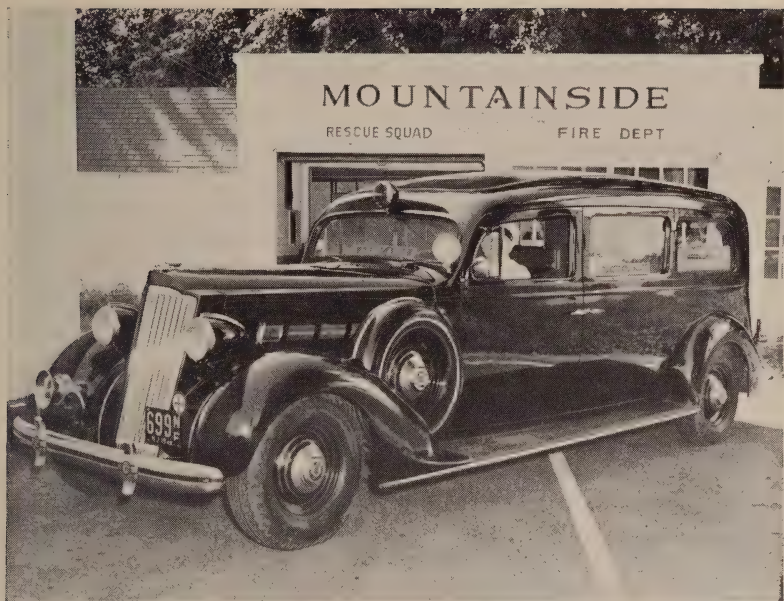


Photo by Zimmerman

since been replaced by a modern, fully equipped ambulance.

The organization is now supported partly by the County, partly by the Borough, and partly through funds received from the Community Association.

The present officers are: President, J. Lindenfesler; Vice-President and Treasurer, Frank W. Rainier; Secretary, Richard Keller; Captain, Richard Keller; First Lieutenant, Joseph Lindenfesler; and Second Lieutenant, Joseph Holzhauser. Others in the Squad are: Austin Johnson, H. L. Lewis, and Russell Knapp as regulars, with H. G. Bader, F. W. Stedman, E. R. Zeitler, R. Wilcox, A. Farrell, Mrs. R. G. Keller, and Mrs. Frank Chapot as Auxiliaries. Lately, due to wartime shortage of manpower during the daytime, the services of the Women's OCD Red Cross Drivers of Westfield have been utilized in emergencies.

The ambulance and attendants are on call day and night for all emergencies for Mountainside and surrounding territory. During the year 1944 they made fifty-seven calls, covering home transportation and accident cases.

After the formation of the Rescue Squad, the following men and companies were good enough to donate their time and materials to add the extension to the former fire house for the use of the ambulance: Mauro Appezzato, Manuelo Novello and Arthur Perrucci, masons from Scotch Plains; John Perrucci, trucker; D. W. Clements, Westfield electrician; Tuttle Bros., hardware; George W. Young, paint; Jos. Holzhauser and a chap known only as "Woody," general work, and Herman Honecker, the overhead doors.

The Casualty Station

The Casualty Station is purely a war-time subdivision of the Rescue Squad. Shortly after the formation of the Mountainside Defense Council, Mr. Richard Keller, who was elected Deputy Chief of Emergency Medical Service in our district by Dr. Bourns, and who worked in conjunction with Doctors Bourns, Salvati and Armstrong, decided to see what could be done about setting up an Emergency Casualty Station in the Borough.

After receiving approval of the Council, he made numerous trips to Newark to discuss with the Board of Trustees of the Newark Orphans' Asylum the feasibility of obtaining the rear building of the Coles' Memorial Home for such use. Permission was finally obtained in January 1942, and Mr. Keller called for recruits.



Dr. Maya Unna, Mrs. Wilfred Hand, Mrs. R. C. Keller and Mrs. Ruth Kubach canvassed the town for donations of blankets, cots, bedding and whatever was necessary to fully equip the Station. The Defense Council donated about \$100 to purchase 100 yards of 81" sheeting, 150 yards unbleached muslin, twenty pairs of pillows and four dozen pillow cases, as well as one dozen rubber sheets.

With the assistance of many others, including Joseph Holzhauser and Joseph Lindenfesler, these women painted, scrubbed and put the Station in order. It is fully equipped with cots set up to accommodate twenty casualties, other cots being stored ready for use, complete bedding, receiving and operating tables, bedside tables, instruments, etc., in fact, everything ready at all times to receive casualties from any emergencies that might occur.

All members are holders of standard and advanced Red Cross First Aid cards, and hold practice emergencies in conjunction with the Rescue Squad periodically.

Further improvements on the building occupied were a vestibule at the receiving door, to keep out cold air, this costing \$138.00; a coal bin at \$14.96; coal \$12.04; driveway, the stone for which cost \$19.00, all of this being paid for by the Defense Council, who also paid about \$150.00 for the medical instruments for the Station, which are stored with the Police.

All materials that might be used for First aid work are kept sterilized through the courtesy of the Children's Country Home.

Members of the staff of the Casualty Station are at the present time: Attending Physician, Dr. Maya Unna; Deputy Nurses, Mrs. Katherine Norris and Mrs. Ruth Kubach; Chief Director, Richard Keller; Personnel Director, Mrs. Joseph H. Hershey; Attendants: Mrs. Albert Welty, Mrs. P. K. Davis, Mrs. Fred Roeder, Mrs. Russell Knapp, Mrs. Henry Weber, Mrs. W. P. Twyman, Mrs. Gilbert Pittenger, Mrs. J. M. Pfeuffer, Mrs. R. Kapke, Mrs. Paul Williams, Mrs. F. Spitzhoff, Mrs. W. Babcock and Mrs. H. Beyer.

Several of the original members who are no longer active are: Mrs. Wilfred Hand, Mrs. R. G. Keller, Mrs. F. Robbins, Mrs. Wilfred Wolfs, Mrs. James H. Hoag, Mrs. John Dunn and Mrs. C. B. Murphy.

The Casualty Station has been cleaned weekly by the At-

tendants and kept in perfect readiness at all times.

In an inspection tour in 1943 by Mr. J. J. Spur, a member of the State Defense Council, the Mountainside Casualty Station was given an A-1 rating, and mentioned as one of the few in the State eligible for that rating.

Since the end of the war in Europe and the resulting lack of casualty emergency from that front, thought has been given to closing the Casualty Station. This will probably be done this Fall.

CHAPTER V

The Mountainside Union Chapel

DOWN in Westfield, Samuel Downer, the merchant who kept the general store, had a son Edwin, who was educated for the ministry at Princeton. When he came back, he brought with him the new idea of the Sunday School for boys and girls. It was in the hospitable home of Mrs. Abigail Badgley that he organized the first Sunday School in Westfield Township, which was about the year 1818. In the management of the school Mr. Downer was assisted by his brother Silas P. Downer, Mrs. Charity Cory, Amos Lum, and others. Joseph Cory, Phoebe and Margaret Mooney, Abigail and Betsy Clark, and a few others were scholars in this school.



About 1825 the school was removed to the schoolhouse, afterwards known as the "Bee-Hive." This old schoolhouse, built in 1860, served the community for both religious instruction and secular education. In it Elder George Frazee and Deacon Andrew Hetfield frequently conducted services on Sunday evenings; Job Clark was superintendent. In 1828, Edward Frazee became Superintendent and upon his removal to Newark in 1835 was succeeded by Joseph Cory. The school at this time, with the other schools of the township, took part in the Fourth of July picnics and parades common at that time. The school was the possessor of a white muslin banner, upon which was inscribed the words "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." This banner and other property belonging to the Sunday School was lost when the home of James R. Baker was destroyed by fire, January 2, 1850.

From 1851 to 1856, Jonathan Cory, a brother of the preceding superintendent, served the school. In 1857 Francis H. Smith became superintendent, and upon his removal to Michigan in 1859, he was succeeded by Joseph Cory who continued as superintendent until 1862. About this time the old Bee-Hive schoolhouse, having become unfit for use, was torn down and a new one erected on the same site, but for some reason the sessions of the Sunday School were not resumed. As the years passed by, the loss of the Sunday School privileges was recognized more and more and the sentiment for a new Sunday School grew stronger.

Among those specially active in the movement were Robert Fairbairn, James Carberry, Henry J. Holmes, Mrs. John Hatfield, Mrs. Hannah Williams, Mrs. Alex Balderston, and others. Finally Leonard Beebe of Westfield agreed to take charge of the work and so on the 26th day of February, 1871, the school was reorganized as the Locust Grove Baptist Sunday School under the auspices of the Westfield Baptist Church.

Under the care of the new superintendent the school grew and flourished and he stayed until 1874, when he moved to Plainfield. John W. Beebe, a nephew, succeeded his uncle and served until 1876. James Seward became his successor, serving the school until November 2, 1878, when in boarding a train in Elizabeth, he slipped and was crushed to death by the cars.

John W. Beebe again took charge of the school during the

remaining months of Mr. Seward's unexpired term. At the annual meeting, February 1879, the Baptists felt unable to maintain it longer, then the school became a Union School. N. Augustus Barnett was elected superintendent, serving the school until March 1, 1882, when he declined re-election, and Joseph W. Cory became his successor. Mr. Cory held the position for one year.

Some of those attending the school at this time were: Edwin Clark, James Clark, Elias Frazee, Julia Frazee, Abby Cory, James R. Baker, Elizabeth Hetfield, Sarah H. Cory, J. Harvey Cory, Jonathan Roll, Israel Correll, Phoebe Baker, Sarah Fowler, Elizabeth Woodruff, Daniel Clark, Cyrus Clark, Phoebe Clark, Mary Clark, Margaret Clark, Kate Clark, Phoebe Mills, Electa Mills, Ameria Still, Gertrude Still, Charles Badgley, Albert Mills, Charles Roll, Samuel E. Young and James Mooney.

At the annual election of March 1883, Hiram L. Fink became superintendent, serving for one year until he removed to Westfield and became superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday School. Mr. Barnett then entered upon another term and served until he left for California. James B. Holmes was his successor, serving until March 1, 1886, at which time Mr. Barnett was again recalled to the position of superintendent. Joseph W. Cory succeeded him in March 1887 and served until 1889. The secretary's report of that year shows a membership of 110.

Richard P. Greaves succeeded Mr. Cory in March, 1889, and served until March 1, 1894. In September 1889, 25 members withdrew from the school to establish the Methodist Episcopal Sunday School in their newly built chapel.

In 1890, the Ladies Aid Society was organized and began a great work for the Union Chapel. In 1891, Mrs. Kate B. High made the church a gift of the property upon which the Chapel now stands and in 1893 a society was formed to hold the property under the name of the Locust Grove Chapel.

In March 1894, Joseph W. Cory was elected to serve as superintendent of the Sunday School a third time. He held the office nearly five years, until December 1, 1898, when he resigned and Walter A. Dempsey was elected to succeed him. Mr. Dempsey immediately began to agitate for the building of a chapel. The people entered into the work with enthusiasm, funds were raised, plans were drawn and estimates secured and on the last Sunday

of October, 1900, the corner stone of the Chapel was laid. After another year of work and effort, on the last Sunday in September, 1901, the building, costing about \$2500, was dedicated—free of debt.

Mr. Dempsey continued to serve as superintendent until June, 1902, when he resigned to become superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School in Westfield. G. A. V. Hankinson, the editor of the "Westfield Leader," succeeded Mr. Dempsey and served the school until March, 1905. At that time he was succeeded by Richard P. Greaves, who began a second term of office and served faithfully in the capacity for thirty-six years until March, 1941, when he was elected honorary superintendent. For the last ten years of that period they had had the benefit of such pastors as Rev. C. H. Schneegas, Rev. John E. Fray and Rev. Percy Pemberton. In 1941 Dewey G. Knoll was elected superintendent and still serves in that capacity.

The Reverend Mr. Pemberton served the chapel until 1926, and is now a missionary in Africa. Rev. Herbert Schmalzreidt served during 1927 and 1928, Rev. Charles Fricke from 1929 to 1931 (he is also a missionary in Africa), Rev. Jesse F. Lady from 1932 to 1934. Then followed Rev. Donald G. Miller, Rev. Edward Blair, Rev. J. Whitfield Sloan, Rev. Roland Ost, Rev. S. Thomas Burns (who has just left for Africa), and the present pastor, Rev. Milton Achey.

The Sunday School session was changed from the afternoon to the morning in June 1940. Improvements which have provided individual Sunday School classrooms in the basement of the Chapel, and which add considerably to the efficiency of the Sunday School, as well as the Vacation Bible School teaching program, have just been completed. The Chapel itself has been re-finished and new pews installed. The dedication of the renovated Chapel will be held on July 8, of this year. The improvements were made possible by a bequest from Mr. James Buck.

During the months past, the ladies of the Chapel have formed a combined missionary society and mothers' club for the boys overseas. The plan is to prepare a periodical, compiled by the group, to consist of four pages: the first a personal letter from one of the members; the second devoted to news of Mountain-side clipped from newspapers; the third consisting of humorous

stories, poems and pictures, and the last a short sermon by the pastor. Mrs. Milton Achey presides over these meetings, assisted by Mrs. Edwin Skidmore and Mrs. Dewey G. Knoll.

Present officers of the Mountainside Union Sunday School are: Pastor, Reverend Milton Achey; Honorary Superintendent, Richard P. Greaves; Superintendent, Dewey G. Knoll; Secretary, Myrtle Messina; Treasurer, M. Moseman; Librarian, Mrs. F. McDowell, and Assistant Librarian, Miss Helen Edwards.

Members of the Board of Trustees of the Chapel include Robert Laing, John Bennett, Dewey Knoll, James Edwards, Clyde Siefert and Marvin Moseman.

LOCUST GROVE CHAPEL

The Locust Grove Chapel, built in September 1889, started as a M. E. Sunday School, later holding evening church services, first with students from Drew University and then having their own minister, the last being Rev. A. H. Hutchinson.

The Chapel was built largely through the efforts of Mr. J. S. A. Wittke, who also installed the stained glass window on the front of the building. He was the father of Mrs. H. W. Roberts of Hillside Ave., Westfield, who has the few remaining records of the Chapel, including the most interesting "Records of the Juvenile Missionary Society of the Locust Grove Chapel Sunday School," minutes of which were kept first by Miss Annie Coles, later by Myrtle Schoonover, A. Fink and lastly by Gertrude Wittke.

From the records it is judged that the first Sunday School Superintendent was J. R. Ferris who was succeeded in December 1893 by J. Phillips (Phillip's name was given to the Juvenile Missionary Society's protégé in India, Thocor Charan Phillips, who was educated by that group). Mr. Phillips was succeeded by Mr. Wittke as Superintendent, possibly around March 1901, as Mr. Wittke is listed in the Sunday School record as holding that position on that date. Other officers of the School then were: Treasurer, Miss Henriette Wittke; Secretary, Arthur Fink; Assistant Secretary, Adam F. Huffman; with Miss Gertrude Wittke as Librarian. Teachers that year and the names of their



Locust Grove Chapel

classes, were: J. S. A. Wittke, "Young Bereans"; J. R. Ferris, "Bible Searchers"; Mrs. Huffman, "Busy Gleaners"; Mrs. Morse, "Light Ahead"; Miss Myrtle Schoonover, "Lovers of Jesus"; Miss Wittke, "Little Missionaries"; Mr. Watson, "Missionary Disciples"; Mrs. Watson, "Willing Workers," while Mrs. Edwards and Miss Huffman were in charge of "Buds of Promise."

Familiar names were among those scholars in the year 1903: Brown, Coles, Echel, Fink, Fritz, Forster, Geisler, Hamilton, Hodges, Holmes, Huffman, Lehmbach, Mack, Meyers, McMurray, Phillips, Phiffer, Rathborne, Schoonover, Stowe, Sutton, Starail, West, Wood and Young.

For some reason, services in the Chapel were discontinued in 1903, and the building fell into disuse. After acquiring the property Dr. Ackerman Coles offered it to the Trustees of the Coles Memorial Home for their worship and the children used it for many years. Later, however, they thought it more feasible to attend Mountainside Union Chapel, and the M. E. Chapel again fell into disuse. It was blown down in the tornado which swept the valley on May 10, 1927.

CHAPTER VI

Mountainside Public Schools

THE Locust Grove School District Number 15 was established in 1760, according to the sign on the front of the small white schoolhouse that stands opposite the Children's Coles Memorial Home on Route 29, which is the Old Willow Grove School, built about 1859.

The site of the first brick schoolhouse in Mountainside was effected through a transfer of the Old Locust Grove School site to the Coles' Memorial Home, through the efforts and interest of Dr. J. Ackerman Coles, when Mountainside was a part of Westfield, and the new site was some 150 by 250 feet on old Mountain Avenue, now a part of the present site.

The first red brick schoolhouse, consisting of two rooms, and two smaller rooms, was built in 1900 at an expense of \$3,448 by the Town of Westfield and the Borough of Mountainside Boards of Education. In 1904 the Board of Education was separated from the Town of Westfield and henceforth has operated individually as the Board of Education of the Borough of Mountainside. I don't rightly recall who was on the first Board. I know that Charles Schoonover and Mr. J. Wilbur Cory were early Clerks, and that Joseph H. W. Edwards was Clerk in 1909. That was the year that William A. Breese was President and Mr. Edwin B. Laing, Vice President of the Board. Now that you are so interested in these things, I wish I'd kept closer track so I could tell you.

In February, 1924, the old school was remodeled at an expense of \$33,000. Two rooms were added, toilets and a furnace were put in the basement. In 1931, with over-crowded conditions and part-time (how the town has grown), the old store-room



Top. The Old Willow Grove School House—built in 1859.

Middle. The Red Brick School House—after remodeling in 1924.

Bottom. Architect's drawing of the new school building, erected adjoining the old red brick building in 1935. *Courtesy of John Edwards.*

became the lunch room. Two additional classrooms were made in the old play cellar, under the added rooms, but still we had part time for two classes. I can tell you all about these costs because I have here the lists of figures that were posted at the time. The original cost of the property on the old school was: land, \$1000; building, \$55,000; equipment, \$2,200, totaling \$58,200. The maturity plan was \$2000 with an interest rate of 5%. That seems like a lot of money to you, but there are larger figures coming yet. It isn't much when you think of all the children that get their education there.

Because of an investment of about \$60,000 in the old school, part of which was still unpaid, and by reason of the fact that the property was just large enough to surround the building, it was necessary to buy more land adjoining. It was impossible, because of the construction, to add to the old building, and impractical because of expense, to remodel. Therefore, the next step was to procure additional land and eventually obtain a complete new school.

In April 1930, one and one-half acres of land adjoining the old red brick schoolhouse, at \$8000, was voted upon by the Borough, which by that time had 432 voters. This matter was voted down, 107 voting, 43 for and 63 against.

In November 1930, the project was again put before the people with an acre and a half of land, at which time 219 votes were cast; 150 being for it and 64 against it, at a price of \$8,000. Thus the site was acquired.

In October 1932, Lauren V. Pohlman was engaged as architect, and in June 1933, the balloting for a new school at \$72,500, adjoining the old red brick schoolhouse, was voted down, 96 to 140. In June 1933, the matter of a new school was presented before 339 voters, 322 expressed their opinion and voted the new \$72,500 school down by 16 votes, the vote being 150 for and 166 against. But the Board still doggedly held on. With the PWA grants of the Roosevelt administration having been assigned for 30% and because of various complications, our grant could not be obtained in this bracket.

When the new 45% grants were offered, it was decided that application be made therein, and such application was made on June 1935.

In July, through the efforts of the Board, architects and our various contacts in Washington (the Honorable Donald McLean, Warren Barbour, A. Harry Moore), and in Union County, N. J. Superintendent of Schools Dr. A. L. Johnson, Mr. Ernest Harding, Assistant Commissioner of Education in Trenton, and Chas. D. Loizeaux of Plainfield, the grant was issued and tentatively accepted. After a publicity program, this matter was set before the people in September, and 279 voted, out of 549 registered. When the votes were counted, 222 were for the new school and 53 against. The Grant and Loan of the Government in the amount of \$87,273 was endorsed; so after three attempts, the school was to be built.

September 12, the Board officially accepted the proposal of Government funds. On November 8, 1935, contracts were received for the local school, and on November 13, contracts were placed. On November 27, 1935, ground was broken, work started, but was interrupted by a very severe winter. Contractors on the school were: Lauren V. Pohlman, architect; Ellwood D. Powers, structural engineer; O. Vogelbach, mechanical engineer; Damon G. Douglas Co., general contractors; Harco Steel Construction Work Co., steel work; Jaehning & Peoples, plumbing work; August Arace & Sons, heating and ventilating, and Shaw Electric Co., electrical work. All these names are on a plaque in the front hall, near the entrance of the new building. You've passed it many times.

The Board of Education accepting the proposals were: President, Mr. Edmund F. Frey; Vice President, Mrs. Nettie L. Von Borstel, and George D. Force, Edward Menerth and Mrs. Mary E. Leet, with Donald Maxwell as Clerk. Members of the Borough Council accepting were: Mayor Robert Davidson, and Councilmen Charles Brokaw, Leslie Leet and Alfred Heckel.

I don't think, right now, the costs of the property are of much interest to you. However, I'll read them off, and anytime later you want to look at them you'll find them here in this scrap-book of mine.

The original costs of the property were: land \$9,325.00; building \$80,470.74; equipment, \$4,866.52; total \$94,662.26. A federal grant of 40% was received by the Board of Education.

The Bonded Indebtedness is:

Date Issued	Amount	Int.	Plan Maturity	Int. Paid	Out- standing June 1942
1924 Old building	\$33,000	5%	\$2,000	\$300	\$4,000
1930 Land for new site	8,000	6%	1,000	none	none
1931 New building	48,000	4%	1,500	1,710	42,000
			<u>\$4,500</u>	<u>\$2,010</u>	<u>\$46,000</u>

The old building was paid for in June, 1944, and the new one will be paid for in June, 1965.

The buildings now consist of twelve rooms and a combination auditorium and gymnasium, nine rooms being used as regular classrooms, two for manual arts for boys and girls, and one room as a Library. The old building has one small room used as a medical room and a small room used as a remedial reading room. The new building has a small room as the Principal's office (I think you know that one well), a Board of Education room, and a teachers' restroom. My telling you this is silly, as you ought to know your school layout pretty well after over eight years. Just think, though, we've grown from a one-room, one-teacher school to a grade school of capacity and size to accommodate our children as they should be, with all classes in attendance and no part time; a kindergarten, primary and grammar grades all of our own.

This is quite a change from the year 1897, when on September 4, Roderick MacLaurin, Secretary of the Good Government Club of Mountainside, had printed a leaflet for distribution to the citizens of the Borough. Here's a copy. Let me read it to you, you might find it more interesting than some of the figures I've just been throwing at you.

MacLaurin's Leaflet on Education

The People of Mountainside have always taken a deep interest in the cause of education. The schoolhouse at Locust Grove, established by the early settlers of the locality in colonial days and maintained until the present time, has done its share in the proper bringing up of many generations of children; but however useful this little school has been in the past, its present condition is deplorable.

The school building and facilities are notoriously inadequate and since the consolidation of the small school districts a few years ago, the people of the Borough have been helpless to improve them. There are about seventy children of school-going age in the Borough. The school-house, a small and ancient frame structure, cannot accommodate all of

them; consequently, many are forced to attend the Westfield school, several miles from their homes, at great inconvenience.

The amount paid last year by the Borough for public school purposes was about one-third of its total taxes, a sum quite sufficient to provide its people with suitable educational facilities. With the school district as it is now constituted, it is unlikely that this school tax hereafter will be less; it is more likely to be greater. The people of Westfield are demanding another schoolhouse in that village, and Garwood, a manufacturing settlement within the district, says that she too must have a schoolhouse. Perhaps these schoolhouses are needed, they will surely soon be built. They will be useless to the people of Mountainside, but many thousands will be added to the twenty-five thousand dollars of bonds now outstanding for the Lincoln school, and the people of Mountainside will then have to pay their proportion of the interest and principal of those bonds, and also will have to contribute to the maintenance of those schools, if the school district remains as it is; for, although the district included in the borough is not bonded for the \$25,000 on the Lincoln school, the Mountainside people, by the consolidation act, have to pay their proportion of the interest, and will have to pay their proportion of the principal of this bonded debt, and also their proportion of any future bonds that may be issued by the Westfield district, so long as they remain a part of that district. Their proportion of the present bonded debt is now about \$2,500.

When the Borough of Mountainside was created out of the Township of Westfield, the public school law required that there should be four hundred children between the ages of five and eighteen years in each school district. As the Borough did not contain so many, there could be no change in its public school government. Before the Borough was created, the school district comprised the former Township of Westfield; since its creation the school district has comprised and now comprises, the present Township of Westfield and the Borough of Mountainside.

By an amendment of the public school act, however, passed at the last session of the legislature, provided for the relief of outlying sections of the present school districts from the hardship suffered by reason of their distance from the school center, it has been made possible for the Borough to become a separate school district.

This amendment (Chapter 137, Sec. 1) approved April 22, 1897, says: "Whenever it shall appear to the County Superintendent that by reason of the location of the schoolhouse, or for other reasons, the best interests of any city, borough or incorporated town require that it be a separate school district, he shall make an order creating such city, borough or incorporated township a separate school district, although the said city, borough or incorporated town contain fewer than four hundred children between the ages of five and eighteen years; such order of the County Superintendent shall take effect only upon the approval of the State Superintendent." Section 2 of the amendment provides that in case any Borough becomes a separate school district and becomes entitled to any schoolhouse, lot or other property, on which there is an indebtedness, such indebtedness shall be assumed by the Board of Education of the school district which has become entitled to said property. As there is no indebt-

edness on the Locust Grove School property, if Mountainside should become a separate school district, it would not only be free from debt but would own its present school property.

It is the duty of every community to provide suitable educational facilities for its children. The people of Mountainside pay for such facilities; they do not possess them and they cannot expect to obtain them from the consolidated school district of which they now form a part; for however well disposed the Board of Education may be, it is powerless to grant adequate school accommodations to a section of the district so distant from its center of population as the Borough. A new schoolhouse in Mountainside being required, bonds will have to be issued for its cost, and the voters of the Township, outnumbering those of the Borough nearly ten to one, will never consent to bond themselves for a schoolhouse in the Borough. If asked to do so, they will naturally say that they must not increase their already heavy bonded indebtedness to build a schoolhouse in a neighboring municipality when they need greater accommodations in their own growing town.

It is clear that the best interests of the Borough require that it be a separate school district and that the law permits it. If created, the new district being rid of all present and future Westfield encumbrances, could be bonded for \$3000 for a new schoolhouse, and so could maintain a grammar school of its own. Such a school, with a primary and a grammar department, and a teacher for each, can be maintained for the money that is now paid by the Borough for its present insufficient school accommodations. A suitable schoolhouse with two commodious classrooms and a hall above, which may be used for lectures, concerts, entertainments and public meetings, can be built on the Locust Grove school lot for about \$3000. The old schoolhouse could be used until the new one could be built, and might then be sold and the proceeds used to furnish the new building.

While the primary and grammar departments of our public schools are almost always full and often crowded, the higher classes have usually a slim attendance, and comprise a very small percentage of the whole number of pupils. There being ample room in the higher classes, should any children in the Borough want a higher education than they can obtain in their own grammar school, arrangements can be made for them to enter any high school that may suit their convenience or inclination.

A grammar school is not only an important factor in the building up of a rural community, it is necessary for its future existence. "What kind of a school have you?" is one of the first questions put by those who, attracted by the great natural resources of Mountainside, would be desirable citizens of the Borough. A dilapidated little structure into which a teacher and half a hundred small children are crowded does not invite intelligent newcomers; and, if parents who care for the education of their young cannot obtain good schooling for them in the neighborhood of their homes, they are apt to move to more civilized parts.

Two years ago the people of Mountainside secured their municipal independence. They have demonstrated their capacity for local government by making their Borough a complete success. The time has now come for them to be free in their public school affairs.

At an early day, the opportunity will be offered to every person of legal age in the Borough to sign a petition to the County Superintendent, requesting him to make an order creating the Borough of Mountainside a separate school district. The facts herein stated and the figures hereto annexed are presented in advance, so that all who are interested in the welfare of the Borough may be informed and able to act understandingly when the petition is presented for signature.

The figures Mr. MacLaurin lists on the back of the pamphlet for an "Estimated Annual Cost of Maintenance of a Grammar School in Mountainside," are most interesting. Listen:

DISBURSEMENTS	
Salaries of two teachers	\$ 1,000.00
Salary of District Clerk	50.00
Salary of Janitor	100.00
Books and supplies	150.00
Fuel	75.00
Incidentals	25.00
Interest on \$3000 Bond for new school (including insurance)	150.00
State School Tax \$136,400 at 27%	368.00
Total	<u>\$ 1,918.00</u>
RESOURCES	
State Appropriation:	
For 2 teachers, at \$200 each	\$ 400.00
For 70 children, at \$3.65 each	255.00
Rentals from Borough Council meet- ings, elections and entertainments	100.00
Total	<u>\$ 755.00</u>
Total Net Cost	<u>\$ 1,163.00</u>

He also lists "the amount paid by the Borough for school purposes for the school year 1896—1897" as being more than that sum: For State School Tax \$366; For Special School Tax \$819; Total \$1,185.

Just for the fun of it, let's compare the above figures with those in the present school budget, approved for the year 1945, by 103 votes of 112 cast. The total school expense of \$49,047 shows a district school tax of \$37,617 of which expenses, current, equal \$40,807, repairs and replacements \$4,000, and manual training and domestic science \$1,300. Compare the budgeted salaries for teachers, etc., of MacLaurin's \$1,150 to that for 1945 of about \$32,559.

Sort of makes you stop and think, doesn't it? Mountainside has grown in its fifty years. Mr. MacLaurin speaks of a half-hundred pupils in his time, and this past year your principal, Mr. Wadas, reported 170 attending classes. Don't forget, son, that jump in school costs represents not so much the difference in 120 children attending, as the difference in the type of education handed out these days. Our cost of \$211.84 per pupil counts in too, the education of the children in the Children's Country Home. Mrs. Sarah Birdsall and Mrs. E. Menerth teach those youngsters, too, you know.

Now before I go on to tell you about Regional High, let me put in a good word right here for the Parent-Teacher Association for Mountainside Grammar School. Suppose I tell you how they started, and some of the good work they have done.

Mountainside Parent-Teacher Association

On November 30, 1921, Mrs. C. Murphy invited about twenty women to her house to talk over a new idea, the organizing of a Parent-Teacher Association for Mountainside School. Mrs. Grace Arquimbeau of Westfield was asked to explain the functions and purposes of such an organization.

On December 6th, all those interested met and elected the first officers, these being: President, Mrs. C. Rinker; Vice-President, Mr. Cathers, then Principal of the school; Secretaries, M. Murphy and Miss S. Coles, and Treasurer, Mrs. Sam Long.

The first meeting room was unique as it was very small, and lighted by a lantern and hanging lamp. The women were seated at a large long table.

The charter members were: Mrs. C. Rinker, Mr. Cathers, Miss M. Murphy, Mrs. S. L. Long, Mrs. Henning, Mrs. Waring, Mrs. Brueton, Mrs. C. Murphy, Mrs. F. Rumpf, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. J. H. Edwards, Mrs. W. Winckler, Mrs. B. Nolte, Mrs. Henry Weber, Miss S. Coles, Miss G. Brown, Mrs. Peterman, Mrs. Neilson and Mrs. R. Laing.

During the next few years enthusiasm spread and the association grew in members and interest. The first definite improvement was the installation of electric lights in the school.

In February 1923, the P.T.A. joined the County Council. Also in 1923, milk, soup and cocoa were sent to the school for

the pupils for lunch, by the parents, and this custom was followed each succeeding winter until the past year when a cook was hired to prepare hot lunches for the children.

The P.T.A. has accomplished many worthy deeds for the school and for the Borough in general. In 1923 they agitated for either an addition to the school or a new building, and in 1924 the addition was made. Eleven years later, they were leaders in investigating the needs for a new school and worked very hard toward this end. They have made many donations to worthy causes, such as Camp Endeavor and the Grace Arquimbeau Scholarship Fund.

They have held dances, minstrel shows, luncheons, cake sales and card parties and solicited donations for such things as cups, saucers, glassware, plates, knives and forks and spoons for the lunch room; 20 barberry bushes for around the flag pole in front of the school, dish towels, trays, victrola and records, a piano, platform, curtains for the stage, chair cushions and curtains for the teachers' rest room which they had redecorated, two flags for the auditorium, three-burner oil stove, ten pictures and statues, dental chair, attachment for the mimeograph machine, World Book for school reference, \$10 for books for Parent-Teachers' bookshelf, Bible for the 5th and 6th grades, mattress, cot sheets and pillow cases for the rest room, sewing machine rented for use by the 6th, 7th and 8th grades, safety standards for the highway, money donated for glasses for needy pupils, and they have also donated money for grade trips. Through agitation by the P.T.A., sidewalks were installed by the Borough Council in dangerous sections going to and from school.

In 1936 they sponsored the Boy Scouts in Mountainside, and this sponsorship continued until April, 1944, when the Fire Department took over. In December, 1944, they sponsored the new Cub Pack, Number 70.

Their work in conjunction with the Parent Education Conference has been most helpful and interesting to Borough families.

Officers who have so efficiently guided the organization through the years are: Mrs. R. Laing, Mrs. W. VonBorstel, Mrs. H. Bliwise, Mrs. Thomas Doyle, Mrs. E. Menerth, Mrs. Henry Weber, Mrs. Leslie Leet, Miss M. E. Johnston, Mrs. W. Curtis, Mrs. Godby, Miss S. A. Coles, Mrs. S. Long, Mrs. Donald Max-

well, Mrs. Charles Herrick, Mrs. J. Hambacher, Mrs. F. Spitzhoff, Mrs. F. Rumpf, Mrs. R. Hutchinson, Mrs. E. Frey, Mrs. F. Rodgers, Mr. C. J. Wadas, Mrs. P. K. Davis, Mrs. F. Lyding, Mrs. C. Wadas, Mrs. Gilbert Pittenger, Mrs. R. King, Mrs. Theodore Mundy, Miss Frances Featherstone, Mrs. C. Hallam and Mrs. R. Oberdahn. Also Mrs. Malcolm Cady, Mrs. Herman Honecker, and Mrs. Elmer Hoffarth.

Present officers are: President, Mrs. Louis Jennings; Vice-President, Mrs. Nelson Jacobus; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Sarah Birdsall; Secretary, Mrs. Ralph Hill, and Treasurer, Mrs. Wilford Twyman.



Jonathan Dayton Regional High School

Since you are entering High School this Fall, son, you should be very interested in hearing how Regional started.

In six districts of Union County—Garwood, Springfield, Kenilworth, Clark Township, Mountainside and New Providence Township—the schools, with no local provision for secondary education, were facing a situation which yearly had developed into a problem of increasing perplexity.

Approximately 850 students, who under provisions of the law were entitled to a high school education, were denied that privilege in some of the adjacent school districts of the county be-

cause of crowded conditions in the high schools. This situation had reached the point where only three school systems could accommodate a limited number of students and the probability was increasingly apparent that these districts in the very near future would be compelled to take the same action the others had already taken. One district had already found it necessary to send its students to a high school outside of the county.

After a careful study of the situation extending over a period of two years and exhausting all other possibilities of solution, the districts, on the advice of the State Department of Education, considered the formation of a regional high school district. While the State School Law had made statutory provisions for the establishment of a regional high school, the law was yet untried in situations such as maintained in Union County. It became necessary then to not only acquaint the citizens of these six districts with the necessity of adopting this solution, but also to make clear the details of the procedure and the practicability of the statute.

A temporary Board of Education, consisting of two representatives from each district, was appointed by the County Superintendent of Schools, and proceeded to work out a plan for the promotion of the idea of forming a regional district. Meetings were held in the various districts and the local problems were carefully studied and largely influenced the final decision.

The establishment of the school has proved to be the most satisfactory solution for the six districts and is now providing the type of education most suitable for the students enrolled. Furthermore, the people in the combined districts have their own school, established and maintained for the students of those districts. The policies, courses of study and general management are operating for the best interest and welfare of the entire student body and no individual groups may or ever can be considered as outlanders. The school is their own and ever will continue to be operated with an eye single to the needs of all students attending from the six municipalities contributing to its maintenance.

It is difficult to believe that there was any application submitted to the Public Works Administration for a loan and grant that had as many problems to be solved and obstacles to overcome as this project.

First, it must be remembered that the temporary committee had no corporate standing except that the members were presidents of the respective Boards of Education, interested in the formation of a regional district.

Secondly, there were no funds available, and whatever services were required, such as architectural and legal, had to be performed gratis, risking the possibility of being retained if the project materialized. The temporary committee had no authority to enter into any agreements.

The third problem was location of the school, and the selection of a desirable site. This problem was made less difficult through the generosity of the people of Springfield, and Mrs. Agnes G. Flemer, and the splendid cooperation of the Union County Park Commission. The Springfield Board of Education donated a five acre tract which they had purchased several years previous in anticipation of erecting their own high school. The Township Committee of Springfield gave title to approximately one and a quarter acres through the vacating of a public thorofare known as Owaissa Avenue. Mrs. Flemer donated approximately two and a half acres. The building is located on the property formerly owned by the Springfield Board of Education and the vacated property which formerly constituted Owaissa Avenue. The adjacent property owned by the Union County Park Commission was mutually landscaped.

After the location was definitely agreed upon, it was necessary to prepare preliminary plans and specifications and make application for submission to the P.W.A. This data had to be submitted in detail, giving a breakdown of all costs. The application also called for a considerable amount of data on the financial standing of each of the communities. Also a thorough explanation of the need of the project. After many conferences with the P. W.A. officials, the applications were formally filed on March 7, 1934.

As I said in the beginning, one of the greatest obstacles that had to be overcome was the fact that the sponsor, namely, the Regional High School Committee, was not a corporate body. This was finally overcome by each of the Boards of Education passing resolutions favoring the project. It was also necessary for each municipal governing body to pass similar resolutions. To sum

up, the entire project hinged on the probability of the P.W.A. approving the loan and grant, provided it would be favorably voted for by the people of the districts through referendum.

During the period from March 7, 1934, when the application was first filed, and up to October 1, 1935, when the President approved the loan and the grant, the application was turned down at least three times for various reasons. It was only through the persistent efforts of those involved, together with the untiring efforts of our United States Senator, the Honorable A. Harry Moore, that the project was finally submitted to the President by the Administrator of Public Works, Harold Ickes. Others besides Senator Moore who were very helpful were: Senators H. F. Kean and W. W. Barbour, Congressman Donald H. McLean, State Senator Chas. E. Loizeaux, Assemblymen Thomas Muir, John Kerner and Herbert Pascoe, and also Edward Whelan and Dr. A. L. Johnson. Architect F. A. Elsasser, as well as attorneys Norbert Burke and Henry Nulton, served faithfully, particularly Mr. Elsasser who donated much time and money to the project.

Approval was contingent upon having contracts awarded on or before December 15, 1935. It can readily be seen that in order to meet this condition, rapid procedure had to be followed. Ballots had to be printed and legal notices posted for referendum upon the creation of a Regional High School district. This election was held on October 21, 1935, and the vote was practically unanimously in favor.

The Regional Board of Education was then formed. This was composed of: President, Joseph Mulholland of New Providence Township; Vice-President, John Potts of Springfield; Custodian of Moneys, Merle Patton of Garwood; plus Edward Menerth of Mountainside, Louis N. James and Earl Pollack of Kenilworth. Mrs. Kate Shapiro of Clark Township, James M. Dugiud of Springfield, and John Dushanek of Garwood. Edmund Frey had been acting as Mountainside's representative before this.

Another referendum had to be voted upon by the people to authorize the bond issue and expenditures. This referendum was held on November 4, 1935, and was also favorably voted upon. On November 20, 1935, the plans and specifications were approved by the State Board of Education. Plans and specifications were approved by the P.W.A. on November 25, 1935, and

bids were advertised to be received on December 10, 1935. The awards of the contracts for the building were made on the same date as the bids were received. Contracts were filed and the work commenced the second week in January, 1936.

Progress of the construction was somewhat delayed due to the cold winter that was experienced in 1936, and due to the contractors' inexperience with the labor regulations governing the Works Progress Administration grant.

The total appropriation consisted of \$533,136 of which 40% was an outright grant, and the balance of 60% a P.W.A. loan by the thirty-year bond issue at 4% interest. To this sum can be added \$5000 State Aid for Manual Training and Domestic Science equipment. The following figures were set forth as expenditures under the appropriation:

Building costs	\$445,998.12
Equipment costs	61,877.39
Land	7,644.00
Interest during construction	13,347.78
Legal and administrative costs	6,852.32
Insurance, telephone and miscellaneous	2,416.39
Total expenditures	<u>\$538,136.00</u>

There were, however, other incidental expenditures which could not be made through the above appropriation. These had to be taken from current budgeted funds.

It can be safely said, I think, that the districts received the benefit of the lowest market on record for this type of building for the past twenty-five years, and that building costs have risen more than 15% since January, 1936. (The "Souvenir Issue" on the high school, from which I'm reading, was dated 1937, so the figures don't compare with those of today.) The credit for the benefit of the low prices can be attributed to the insistence of the Board of Education that the plans and specifications be prepared at the very outset to include the complete building instead of leaving the foundation work separate. Bids for equipment and furnishings were also received at an early date.

The building has been planned so that future additions can be most economically and efficiently constructed. All mechanical

work such as heating and electricity has been provided to take additional requirements.

The building will house conveniently approximately 1000 pupils and has an auditorium with a seating capacity of 925. The building has a large gymnasium which can be divided by a folding partition to make separate gyms for the boys and girls, and has locker and shower room facilities conveniently located to the same. The lunch room can seat 425 persons and is so arranged that the kitchen can be entirely closed off from the lunch room, as a study room.

There are twenty classrooms accommodating thirty-five pupils each, or a classroom capacity of 700. Other classroom capacities are as follows: typewriting 36, business practice 20, bookkeeping 36, mechanical drawing 35, art room 35, general science 36, biology 36, working stations for chemistry and physics 24, cooking 24, sewing 24, print shop 24, woodworking shop 24, metal working and general shop 24—in other words a total pupil capacity of 1078.

So you see, son, you can be confident of going into high school with ample equipment for your higher education. The Board of Education in Mountainside who voted on the Regional High question deserve the thanks of every boy and girl in the Borough who want more than grammar school education. It comprised: Edmund F. Frey, President; Mrs. Wm. VanBorstel, Vice-President; George D. Force, E. F. Menerth and Mrs. Leslie Leet. Mr. Menerth is our present representative on the Regional High Board of Education, and has served in that capacity for many years.

Regional High Parent-Teacher Association

The Jonathan Dayton Regional High School P.T.A. was organized in the Fall of 1937.

A short time after the school opened in September, the Union County Council of Parent-Teachers held a "School of Instruction" at the High School. Mr. Halsey, Principal, welcomed the group and expressed a desire to have a P.T.A. in the school. Letters were sent to the six local presidents asking them, together with two representatives, to attend a meeting for the purpose of organizing an association.

Mrs. Jones, State High School Chairman, and Mrs. Bannon, Union County Chairman, were present to aid the group with their plans. A committee was selected to draw up a set of By-Laws for the Association: Mr. Warren Halsey, Chairman; Mrs. N. C. Cannon, Clark Township; Mrs. C. Boblin of Garwood; Mr. W. Deans, Kenilworth; Mrs. Gilbert Pittenger, Mountainside; Mrs. Masterson, New Providence; Mrs. F. Geiger, Springfield, with Mrs. Edward Menerth acting as Secretary at the meetings.

The first organization meeting was held October 28, 1937, with Mr. Halsey presiding. By-Laws were accepted as read by the State Parliamentarian, Mrs. Whittmoyer, with few exceptions. Mrs. Nelson reported 222 members.

The officers elected at the time were: President, Mr. W. J. Deans of Kenilworth; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Kate Shapiro of Clark Township; Mrs. L. Steffan, Garwood; Mrs. T. Doyle, Mountainside; Mrs. H. C. Curtis, New Providence; Mrs. C. Harmon, Springfield, and Mrs. T. Condon of Kenilworth; Recording Secretary, Mrs. E. Menerth of Mountainside; Corresponding Secretary, Miss E. Boyd of the faculty; Treasurer, Mrs. C. Nelson of Springfield. Installation was by Mrs. J. Jones, State Chairman of the High School Parent-Teachers' Association.

The Regional P.T.A. has worked along the lines of all PTA's in bringing better conditions about for the schools and their respective towns. Among their most noted work in the High School is their financing of scholarship awards for College Prep, General, Commercial Secretary, Commercial Accounting courses, most representative boy and girl, and the athlete with the highest average. Also the Student Aid Fund.

The two officers from the Borough at present serving, are: Mrs. Henry Weber as President, and Mrs. Charles Shomo as Vice-President from Mountainside. Mrs. Charles Rinker is Publicity Chairman; Mrs. Gilbert Pittenger, Chairman of Ways and Means; Mrs. E. Menerth is Advisory Member as well as State Goals Chairman and Member-at-Large. Mrs. Henry Weber is County Goals Chairman and Vice-President of Union County P.T.A. Mrs. Kazmar is County Parent-Education Chairman.

CHAPTER VII

Mountainside Public Library

IN late 1934, needs for a public library were investigated, and through the efforts of Mrs. Henry C. Weber, at that time Secretary of the Parent-Teacher Association, and the New Jersey State Librarian, Miss Sarah Askew, a free public library was started in the Borough Hall.

That paragraph makes it sound so simple, but really it wasn't. First their (Mrs. Weber's and all the others interested) time was taken up with meetings, and still more meetings, and writing back and forth to Trenton to find out the whys and wherefores, then calling around Mountainside and neighboring towns asking for donations of books for public reading; making arrangements for the location of the Library, and last but not least, after all these details were taken care of, getting shelves built to hold the many donations received. Both Mr. Charles Brokaw and Mr. Charles Herrick were given votes of thanks for their able assistance in the latter, as were many others.

At the first meeting of the Board of Trustees, in the Chapel on December 3, 1934, Miss Myrtle Long was chosen as Librarian. She served until 1938.

The raising of funds with which to maintain the Library and build it up was a continuous problem to the early Trustees. Membership subscriptions, chow mein dinners, card parties and the like, were of some small assistance until the Borough Council was persuaded to help out in 1937 and 1938. This support, however, was not requested in 1939 and 1940, and this period was pretty bleak for the hopes of the Library.

Miss Long resigned in 1938. Then followed a succession of Librarians, N.Y.A. girls, and W.P.A. help, aiding the harassed

Trustees, but even with this, it was necessary to close the Library for a short period in the Fall of 1940 for lack of assistance.

During this period, the Library was moved in 1938 from the Borough Hall to the former fourth grade room in the old school building, and then, in September 1941, by dint of much effort on the part of the Board members, down to its present quarters in the school basement.

1941 proved to be the turning point in the fortunes of the Library. The Board was re-organized, and the Borough again was requested to supply money to support the Library. This support has continued ever since, in increasing quantity.

In June of that year, one of the Trustees, Mrs. Mabel Ward Lyding, accepted the position of Librarian, and served ably and faithfully until her death in November 1942. She was succeeded by the present Librarian, Mrs. Edward Hansen, in January 1943. Mrs. Hansen was trained in this profession, had acted as Librarian in the New York Library in Staten Island before coming to this community, and has taught Library Science.

The Library has grown tremendously since 1934, its daily average of out-going books having increased 66% in the past seven years. This average is even better than it looks on the surface, inasmuch as much of the original donated material was old. The Library now houses 2500 of the latest books as well as magazines and reference material. Use is made also of the Traveling Library from Trenton, and State Aid books from the same source, to round out the reading matter. Now that funds are more ample, the newer books no longer repose on the pay shelf established July 9, 1940, but, since February 1943, are catalogued for the seven-day shelf.

As you know, the Library has sponsored poster and essay contests for the school children, in order to promote good reading habits. That it has succeeded is evident to anyone peeking in the doors after school is dismissed—the rooms seem to be swarming with youngsters. Mrs. Hansen has recently started a Library Club to teach Library Science to those children most interested. Then interest was also spread by the Doll Show, the Hobby Show, and the special shelves for reference material, such as the Boy Scout Shelf, the Girl Scout Shelf, and the newer Garden Shelf, sponsored by the Mountainside Garden Club.

Though the basement quarters seemed ample when taken over in 1941, they are now quite crowded, and from one of the discussions by the Board of Trustees in anticipation of a library building, as well as for further financial assistance, was born the Community Association. The Board of Trustees, in November 1941, appointed a committee consisting of a member of each of the local organizations, to form the nucleus of the present Community Association.

All the members of the Board of Trustees deserve a vote of thanks for their efforts to give the community good literature. And they consider themselves very lucky to be able to enjoy the services of so able a Librarian as Mrs. Hansen.

The first officers of the Board of Trustees chosen in the Chapel on December 3, 1934, were: Chairman, Mr. J. Lady; Vice-Chairman, Mrs. R. Hutchinson; Treasurer, Mr. C. Murphy, and Secretary, *Miss Frances Martin. Additional members at that time were: Mrs. A. E. VanDoren, Mr. A. Thompson, *Mr. Robert Davidson, and *Mrs. J. M. Pfeuffer.

Later serving were: Rev. Percy Pemberton, Mrs. F. Spitzhoff, *Mrs. F. Beers, *Mrs. J. Hinman, Mrs. W. Wolfs, Mrs. R. Jacobus, Rev. Roland Ost, Miss Ruth Rinker, *Mrs. J. P. C. Peter, *Miss M. E. Johnston, Mr. D. O. Haynes, Mrs. M. W. Lyding, Mrs. E. Frederick, *Rev. J. W. Sloan, Mrs. R. Major and Rev. S. Thomas Burns. Also Mr. Theodore Mundy.

Present Board members are: President, Mrs. Paul K. Davis; Vice-President, Dr. Minor C. K. Jones; Treasurer, Mrs. Gilbert Pittenger; Secretary, Mrs. Joseph H. Hershey; also, *Mrs. Henry Weber, Mrs. J. M. Pfeuffer, *Mr. Charles Wadas, *Mr. Paul K. Davis, *Mr. Charles Herrick (Mr. Herrick being Treasurer for many years), *Mr. Charles Brokaw (honorary for his many, many years of service), Miss Hazel Heckel, Mrs. James Eblen, Mrs. Arthur Ahearn, Mrs. John Moxon and Rev. Milton Achey.

All the names above starred are those appearing on the Certificate of Incorporation of the Mountainside Library, dated April 8, 1937.

The present hours for the Library are: Monday through Friday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday evenings; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

CHAPTER VIII

Civic Organizations

Mountainside Community Association

THE Mountainside Community Association was incorporated on February 4, 1942, to collect money for the support of various local organizations, namely: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Visiting Nurses Association, Rescue Squad, Public Library, and whatever other organizations arose which might come under their coverage. The Civic Council was later included to take care of funds raised for a community center.

Prior to 1942, such collections had been affiliated with the Westfield Community Chest, but as this had not proved entirely satisfactory, the Mountainside organization was formed. The idea was primarily that of the Library Board, and the original group forming the nucleus of the Association were: Mr. T. V. Mundy, Mr. George Danenhauer, Mr. Richard Keller, Mr. Herman E. Honecker and Mrs. Wynant Cole. Mr. Danenhauer, Mr. Honecker and Mr. Mundy as temporary chairman, were appointed to prepare the Constitution. After its acceptance, the following were elected as Trustees: Mr. T. V. Mundy, President; Mrs. Albert Welty, Secretary; Mrs. John Moxon, Treasurer; Mr. G. Danenhauer, Vice-President; and Mrs. Randolph Major, Mrs. Isabel Turner, Mrs. Wynant Cole, Mr. Austin Johnson and Mr. Richard Keller. Prior to its final set-up, Mrs. Moxon and Mr. Mundy had spent considerable time visiting such organizations in surrounding towns.

It is most interesting to note the jump in per capita contributions from 1942 to 1945 inclusive. In 1942, 368 contributors donated \$1664.55, or an average of \$4.55 per person; in 1943, 413 contributors subscribed \$2567.75, or an average of \$6.21 per

contributor. In 1944 the average contribution was \$7.60 with 397 contributors pledging \$3018.72. The 1945 figures for the drive were, 400 people contributing \$3495.36, or about \$8.74 per person. At present, part of the money subscribed is turned over to the War Fund Campaign.

Present officers and trustees, or directors, are: President, George Danenhauer; Vice-President, Malcolm Wright; Secretary, Mrs. Albert Welty; Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Rupp; and campaign manager, Malcolm Wright; also Austin Johnson, H. E. Honecker, Richard Keller, Lloyd Manley, and M. P. Chattin.

Mountainside Civic Council

On June 1, 1943, Mr. Theodore Mundy of the Mountainside Community Association called a meeting at his home of representatives of various civic organizations in the Borough, for the purpose of forming the Civic Council. The Council was set up as a separate organization to promote civic activities and provide the facilities for such activities.

For some time there had been included in the budget of the Community Association, a fund for the establishment of a Civic Center, but due to the war, it was necessarily put off as a future project. The organization of the Civic Council was to stimulate civic activities for the present, and to plan for and finally erect the Civic Center with the funds received from the Community Association.

As mentioned before, the Civic Council is made up of one Councilor from each of the civic organizations in Mountainside, and three from the Community Association. The organizations represented at the time of its formation were: The Taxpayers' Association by Mr. F. H. Stedman; the Rescue Squad by Mr. F. W. Rainer; the Fire Department by Mr. Herman Honecker; Library Board by Mrs. G. Pittenger; Girl Scouts by Mrs. Vincent Glide; Boy Scouts by Mr. Roy Minton; Mountainside P.T.A. by Mrs. Theodore Mundy; Regional P.T.A. (Mountainside Division), by Mrs. Henry Weber; Mountainside Union Chapel by Rev. S. Thomas Burns (since replaced by Rev. Milton Achey); the junior and senior branches of the Mountainside Garden Club by Mrs. H. J. Kazmar; the Birch Hill Civic As-

sociation by Mrs. Joseph H. Hershey; and the Mountainside Community Association by Mr. Malcolm Wright (since replaced by Edw. Hansen), Mr. Frank Chapot and Mr. John Ferguson.

Mr. Henry Sevcovic now represents the Fire Department; Mr. H. E. Honecker has replaced Mr. Chapot for the Community Association; and Mrs. Paul K. Davis was appointed by the Mountainside P.T.A. to fill the place of Mrs. Theodore Mundy, who has moved from Mountainside.

The first officers of the Civic Council were: President, Mr. Herman E. Honecker; Vice-President, Mr. F. H. Stedman; Secretary, Mrs. Joseph H. Hershey, and Treasurer, Mrs. Vincent Glide. These same officers served the second year also. Now in its third year, Mrs. Hershey has been elected President and Mrs. Henry C. Weber, Secretary. The Vice-President and Treasurer remain as before, Mr. Stedman and Mrs. Glide, respectively.

The Chairmen of the various committees of the Civic Council have carried over the three-year period, Mr. F. H. Stedman functioning as chairman of the Budget Committee; Herman Honecker, Building Committee; Roy Minton, Recreation and Recreation Grounds; and Mrs. Joseph H. Hershey, Borough History. The only change was that of Chairman of Civic Activities—Mr. Stedman serving for 1943, and 1944, replaced by John Ferguson in 1945.

The first project of the Civic Council was the Fourth of July celebration in 1943 at the Mountainside School, in which they were assisted by the Defense Council.

In October, 1943, the Civic Council obtained the use of the Borough Hall on Saturday nights, for Teen-age activities. These affairs were handled by Mrs. Hershey, Mrs. Mundy and Mr. Honecker, with the assistance of other members of the Council on various evenings as chaperones. However, the turn-out for these affairs was disappointing, and they were discontinued the beginning of February, 1944.

The 1944 July 4th celebration was also sponsored by the Civic Council, and in that same year they sponsored a Soft-Ball League, in conjunction with the Defense Council. These games were very popular, and are being continued during 1945. Practically the same group that played softball formed a bowling

league during the winter of 1944—45, but this has not been sponsored by the Council, being more on individual effort than community activity.

The Fourth of July celebration for 1945, under the sponsorship of the Civic Council, was along the same lines as usual—games and races for the children with war stamps as prizes, softball games for the adults, all preceded by an invocation by the Minister, the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, and a short talk by the Mayor. As usual, too, refreshments of ice cream and pop were on hand for a general “cooling off.”

Members appointed to draw the constitution on which the Civic Council was incorporated on July 28, 1944, were Mr. Honecker, as temporary Chairman, Mrs. Pittenger, and Mrs. Hershey.

Taxpayers' Association

A general meeting of the citizens of Mountainside was held at the Borough Hall on April 3, 1939, to vote on whether or not a Mountainside Taxpayers' Association was desired. The idea passed unanimously. The temporary Chairman, Charles J. Fritz, introduced Mr. R. N. Inglis of Westfield Taxpayers' Association who spoke on the activities of that group; also Mr. John Moxon, who outlined fully the purpose and objectives of such an organization, reading excerpts from reports of the New Jersey State Taxpayers' Association.

It was decided that meetings would be held the first Monday of each month with the exception of July and August, with the annual meeting in January. This last was later changed to December. Membership dues were one dollar.

The temporary Chairman proposed that the organization have a Board of Directors composed of nine men, and those nominated for this position were: Ernest Alpers, Lester Cramer, Charles J. Fritz, D. O. Haynes, John Moxon, M. A. Payton, A. VanDoren, W. P. Twyman and M. Weise. At the Directors' meeting following the general meeting, the following officers were chosen for 1939: President C. J. Fritz; Vice-President, A. VanDoren; Secretary, John Moxon; and Treasurer, Ernest Alpers. The Association operated under a Constitution voted upon at the May 1939 meeting.

The aims of the Association are best expressed in their annual report of 1941: "To promote a civic consciousness among the citizens of the Borough. To acquire and maintain those benefits which accrue from a nonpartisan administration of municipal government. To create an organization through which the citizens of the Borough may take a more active part in the affairs of its local problems. To bring about a better understanding between citizens and officials charged with the efficient administration of government. We hope to attain our objectives by: Showing the citizens through membership campaign literature, some of the things the Association is doing and some of the problems confronting the Borough. Sending out special letters to warn citizens of any raid being made on their pocketbooks or the Treasury. Keeping aloof from supporting one party or faction opposed to another. Attempting to maintain harmony in the administrative body through urging closer cooperation. Inviting and urging citizens to join our Association to carry on studies beneficial to citizens and government. Attending Council meetings and Councilmanic Committee Chairman's meetings to discuss Borough problems and settle differences of opinion amicably before the fact rather than criticize after the fact." They also work directly with our other local departments, including the Board of Education.

One of their first steps toward better government was the resolution passed by them and forwarded to the Borough Council in June 1939: "Resolved that the Mountainside Taxpayers' Association, in view of the seriousness of the tax collection problem in the Borough, hereby petition the Borough Council and the Tax Collector to use every means at their disposal to collect all taxes now in arrears."

Not only were steps taken in this direction, but the entire Tax Collection system in the Borough was reorganized through the efforts of the Association. Some of the other things in which they were successful were: getting the tax rate lowered, obtaining a new fire engine, the passing of a permit law before allowing anyone to move from the Borough (checking tax delinquencies), and keeping school costs low. In addition they have assisted the State Association in many of the referendums brought up before

the State Government. They have also interested themselves in better paving of the roads, and the well-known "sewer situation." One of the few things in which they were not successful was their objection to the referendum on Police Department increases in salaries, believing this should be handled by the Borough Council legislation, instead of referendum.

Directors and officers have been:

1940—President, M. A. Payton; Vice-President, A. M. Weise; Secretary, W. P. Twyman; Treasurer, Ernest Alpers; Directors—C. J. Fritz, A. E. VanDoren, S. DuPuy and W. Hanby.

1941—President, J. W. Moxon; Vice-President, A. M. Weise; Secretary, F. H. Stedman; Treasurer, E. Alpers; Directors, C. J. Fritz, A. E. VanDoren, W. P. Twyman, M. A. Payton, F. H. Stoppelman, S. W. DuPuy, W. B. Cole, Charles Brokaw, C. A. Dunn, H. Gibbs and J. J. Wycall.

1942—President, F. H. Stedman; Vice-President, Ernest Alpers; Treasurer, H. Gibbs; Secretary, Norman Wooley; Directors, W. P. Twyman, W. B. Cole, T. V. Mundy, J. Hambacher, G. Force, F. Heitkamp, R. Dietz, Harold Bliwise, A. DiFrancisco, R. T. Major and F. H. Stoppelman.

1943—President, W. P. Twyman; Vice-President, E. Alpers; Treasurer, H. Gibbs; Secretary, Norman Woolley; Directors, F. H. Stedman, T. V. Mundy, W. B. Cole, J. Hambacher, G. Force; A. M. Weise, P. K. Davis, E. R. Zeitler, R. Whitcomb. In September 1943, due to resignations, the officers were changed to: President, E. R. Zeitler; Vice-President, A. M. Weise and Secretary, Paul K. Davis; A. C. Patterson, Director.

Incorporation papers for the Association were filed September 14, 1943, with only five Trustees' names listed, these being: E. R. Zeitler, A. M. Weise, H. Gibbs, P. K. Davis, and R. Whitcomb.

Herbert Gibbs resigned the position of Treasurer as of September 16, 1943, but there has been no regular meeting of the Association since that time, due to pressure of business.

Girl Scout Troops

The first Girl Scout troop was formed in Mountainside in March, 1941. Meetings had been held before this time, but March 26th is the registration date. The troop was under the

leadership of Miss Ruth Rinker and Mrs. Sarah Birdsall, and had eighteen members.

The following year the troop was led by Miss Rinker and Miss Jane Rodgers and in 1943, met with Miss Rodgers as the only leader. In 1944, most of the girls went on to Regional High. The old number was saved for them but they have found their studies and other activities take too much time and have not continued. For this reason, Troop 50 has been dropped.

In January, 1943, Troop 54 was first registered under leadership of Mrs. J. Malcolm Wright and Mrs. Wynant Cole. This was a new group of girls, younger than those in Troop 50. These girls have gone on under the leadership of Mrs. Elmer Hoffarth for the past two years, with Mrs. Henry Sevcovic as second leader. Committee members assisting are: Mrs. H. E. Honecker, Mrs. A. Eberenz, Mrs. C. B. Murphy, Mrs. Wallace Winckler and Mrs. C. Salvatoriella.

In the Fall of 1944, a new group of girls wished to begin scouting and they were registered as Troop 58 under the leadership of Mrs. C. J. Bitzer and Mrs. Malcolm Wright. Present leader of this troop is Mrs. Joseph Chattin, assisted by Mrs. A. Gray. Troop 58 Committee Members: are Mrs. J. Young, Mrs. R. J. Royce and Mrs. E. R. Zeitler.

There have also been several Mountainside girls under the leadership of Mrs. J. G. Chattin attending a senior troop in Westfield, as there were not enough girls to make up a troop of their own.

Boy Scouts

As you may have heard, back in 1936 there were about a dozen boys in the Borough interested in Scouting. Mr. Charles Wadas took them in hand and worked with them for about half a year until they were able to pass their Tenderfoot tests. They were sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association, and their first Scoutmaster was Francis Petersen. He was succeeded by John Keuler who served in that capacity until he entered the armed forces. (Francis Petersen is also in service.)

After John Keuler left, the Scouting movement seemed to drag along, as you know, and then Russell Knapp took over. In

1942 he received assistance from Joseph H. Hershey and Malcolm Wright, who carried on after Mr. Knapp's resignation due to illness. In 1943 Mr. Hershey was appointed Scoutmaster and has served since that time, with no Assistant Scoutmaster.

In 1944 (May 5) sponsorship of the Troop (70) passed from the P.T.A. to the Fire Department. 1944 Members of the Scout Committee were: Mr. Charles Wadas, Malcolm Wright, Elmer Hoffarth, Louis Jennings, Roy Minton (Chairman), Rolf Kristiansen, John Ferguson and Joseph Chattin. Mr. Wadas and Mr. Chattin had also been committee members during Petersen's, Keuler's and Knapp's time, along with Joseph Lindenfesler, Russell Knapp and J. Hambacher.

The 1945 committee is made up of Chairman Roy Minton, Rolf Kristiansen, Elmer Hoffarth and John Ferguson.

Troop 70 is again quite active—appearing in group rallies, hiking and over-night camping trips to Camp Lyon in the Watchungs, and fairly rapid in advancements and in acquiring merit badges, and I know you enjoy all of their activities, including even the assistance you give in the Scrap Drives.

Cub Scouting

In June, 1944, a Cub Den known as Den 12 was established in the Children's Country Home. Miss Martha Van Wert, Den Mother (one of the nurses) reports that the boys are very interested in the movement. Den Chief is Joseph Deuchler.

Cub Den 10 was organized by Roy Minton in December 3, 1943, under the leadership of Den Mother Mrs. Louis A. Jennings. This was later expanded into Cub Pack 70 under the sponsorship of the P.T.A. with Mr. E. Semon as Packmaster, and the Pack committee consisting of Louis A. Jennings as chairman, Charles Wadas, Harold Engleman, Ernest Bauer, N. Jacobus and L. Manley.

At the present time they have three dens, with Den Mothers: Mrs. Louis Jennings, Mrs. E. Bauer and Mrs. Wirsching officiating. Four scouts have taken training as Den Chiefs—Jack Kazmar, Ted Mundy, Dave Young and Dick Hambacher. They were assisted and advised by Roy Minton III, who was Den Chief of Den 10, Westfield Pack 171, last year.

Mountainside Garden Club

In April, 1931, the Mountainside Garden Club was organized by the following charter members: Mrs. Stephen G. VanHoesen, Mrs. Joseph Barnes, Mrs. Wilfred Wolfs, Mrs. August Rader, Mrs. Elliott Ranney, Mrs. Kriegar, Mrs. Charles Herrick, Mrs. Wm. Parkhurst, Mrs. Foster and Mrs. A. E. VanDoren.

The object of the group, though limited to a membership of twenty-five (from Mountainside, and surrounding towns), is, as with all of the Garden Clubs in the State Federation—"to stimulate interest in gardening, trees, wild flowers, and encourage a civic interest in the beauty of the community."

This encouragement was further extended in February 1939 by the formation of the Junior Garden Club, with Mrs. Donald Maxwell supervising their bi-weekly meetings. This younger group now meets once a month at the school, under the direction of Mrs. Charles Wadas, assisted by Miss M. E. Johnston.

The program of the Senior group, holding monthly meetings, September through June, at the homes of the members, is quite diversified. Notable speakers on various garden topics are guests at many of these meetings, while others are enlivened by discussions of the group on some particular garden problem, or the arrangement of flowers to the best advantage.

The Mountainside Garden Club held two shows of their own—a Spring Show at the school in 1940, and an Autumn Show in 1941 at the homes of several of its members.

During the World's Fair, Mrs. Ranney, Mrs. Wolfs and Mrs. VanHoesen served as members in "Gardens on Parade."

Several of the members have attained many "firsts" at the International Flower Shows in New York, as well as "seconds," and "Honorable Mentions." From 1935 through 1945, Mrs. Wilfred Wolfs, Mrs. A. E. VanDoren, Mrs. Ethan Allen, Mrs. Copeland, Mrs. Elliott Ranney, Mrs. Stephen G. VanHoesen, Mrs. R. W. Davidson, Mrs. R. E. Powell, Mrs. Donald Maxwell and Mrs. H. L. Brooks have been so honored. In addition, the Club or its individual members have taken high honors at other flower shows, including the recent one in Westfield. They are also proud possessors of a cup for which they vied for three years and won each time, the last time putting it permanently in their possession.

In addition to furthering the garden lore of its members, exhibiting at shows, and teaching the Junior group the rudiments of gardening and flower display, Mountainside Garden Club planted the evergreens around the school in 1938—1939; and assisted in planting spring bulbs (narcissus, tulips, iris) and the Herb and Shakespearean gardens in Cedar Brook Park, Plainfield, known as the Union County Garden Center. Their latest project was the assistance given to the New Jersey State Garden Clubs in their efforts towards the establishing of the "BLUE STAR DRIVE," along Highway 29, from Mountainside to North Plainfield, in honor of the boys and girls serving in World War II.

Present members of the Garden Club are: Mrs. Ethan Allen (member-at-large), Mrs. Joseph Barns (first vice-president), Mrs. E. H. Bennett, Mrs. Wm. M. Bristol, Mrs. H. L. Brooks, Mrs. M. P. Chattin, Mrs. John Cregar, Mrs. J. W. Cutler, Mrs. W. E. Deal (recording secretary), Mrs. R. L. Duncan, Mrs. S. W. Dupuy, Mrs. A. J. Ericsson, Mrs. J. A. Greene, Mrs. Vincent Glide, Mrs. F. B. Heitkamp (president), Mrs. Joseph H. Hershey, Mrs. H. J. Kazmar, Mrs. Donald Maxwell (corresponding secretary), Mrs. M. A. Payton (member-at-large), Mrs. R. E. Powell (second vice-president), Mrs. A. M. Sawyer (Treasurer), Mrs. Ives McCredie, Mrs. R. E. Stevenson, Mrs. A. E. VanDoren, Mrs. Charles J. Wadas; with Honorary Members, Mrs. D. M. Hinton of Red Bank, Mrs. Stephen G. VanHoesen of Fanwood, and Mrs. Elliott Ranney.

Birch Hill Civic Association

Before we leave the Civic organizations of Mountainside, I just want to speak a word about the youngest of the group, the Birch Hill Civic Association. This was formed for practically the same reasons the Taxpayers' was formed, but more on a sectional basis—though they had in mind total civic improvements.

It is made up of residents of "Birch Hill" as the territory covered by Evergreen Court, Oak Tree Road, Birch Lane and Birch Hill Road, is known. The idea of the local association was promoted by Mr. E. R. Zeitler, Mr. Wm. Poeter and Mrs. Joseph Hershey, and it grew until it took in virtually every one of the

home-owners in this area. Known for a time as the "upstarts" and "Borough Council hecklers," and what not, they did accomplish some of their purposes before war-time conditions set in; mainly in having much of the surface water emptied from the Hill by storm sewers, and improved roads. These being their main aims at the time, they are patiently waiting until the end of the War when they intend to further the civic improvement cause.

Mrs. John Dunn has served as secretary of the Association since its inception in 1941, and Austin Johnson has been Treasurer. The positions of President have been filled respectively by E. R. Zeitler, Mrs. Joseph Hershey, and Mr. Edward Hansen. Mr. H. Schoenfisch has served throughout as vice-president.

In addition to going all out for civic improvements, the Association has also given much time and thought to entertainment for its members, with the resulting picnics, dances and Hallowe'en parties. While originally known as "hecklers" as I said before, this section is particularly civic-minded as can be proved by the number of its residents who serve on many of the other civic organizations—fully 50% of them being represented in either the Rescue Squad, Fire Department, Taxpayers', Community Association (100%), Civic Council, Library Board, Planning Board, and even the Borough Council.

CHAPTER IX

Welfare Organizations and Hospitals

The Children's Country Home

ON June 30, 1891, twenty-four women representing the churches in Westfield got together to discuss a country home for the underprivileged children. The chief organizers were: Mrs. W. G. Peckham, Mrs. Martin Wells, Miss Emma Bridges, Mrs. W. H. Morse, Mrs. Seargeant, Mrs. G. H. Embree, Mrs. J. W. Beebe, Mrs. Lawrence Bastable, Mrs. J. S. Ferris and Mrs. V. O. Burtis.

Through social affairs they raised the sum of \$136 which they deposited in the Union Dime Savings Bank in New York, as at that time, there was no bank in Westfield.

The first summer they had eight underprivileged children at the house at the corner of New Providence Road and Mountain Avenue, which they used as a summer home for six years.

The Children's Country Home was founded in 1891 and incorporated in 1893, with Mrs. Laura Thurston Peckham retiring as President in that year. Mrs. Mary Patton Wells served until 1894, when the position was assumed by Mrs. V. O. Burtis. In 1914 Miss Emma L. Bridges became President and served until 1921, at which time Mrs. Harry A. Kniffin, the president now serving her twenty-fourth year, was elected.

The first crippled child was taken in in 1897.

The present property of ten acres on New Providence Road, once a part of the farm of Jonothan Crane, pioneer, was purchased from the John Drew estate on March 23, 1896, at a cost of \$6500. In 1910 the right wing was added, and the left, or chapel wing, in 1914, with donations made by Dr. J. Ackerman Coles.



For the first thirty years, the establishment was operated just as a summer home. In 1922, it was decided to operate the Home all year round. The cost was figured as \$30,000 to equip it for this purpose, plus \$40,000 to run it. This was raised in Westfield. The year 1923 saw it formally opened for all-year maintenance.

In 1926 the Rose Cottage was built to house patients from the New Jersey Orthopedic Hospital, and in 1929 the Bridges-Dalamater Cottage was added.

In 1943 the Home was the recipient of several donations to be used as a nucleus for building an addition to the Home. The Board hopes to construct a building properly designed to take care of additional infantile paralysis and cerebral palsy cases, and should accommodate about fifty additional beds.

The cerebral palsy unit was started in the Home in 1942. The unit is under the direction of Dr. Winthrop M. Phelps of Baltimore, and the work is being done by Mrs. Isabel J. Hirsch, physiotherapist. In 1936 a cerebral palsy project was initiated by the N. J. State Crippled Children's Commission. The program had a three-fold purpose. The first purpose was to determine the nature of the problem of cerebral palsy as it exists in New Jersey, by a state-wide survey. The second was to ascertain the benefits that are to be obtained by muscle re-education through physical therapy methods; and the third was to train individuals to carry on the treatment work if the findings of the first two warranted. All three phases of this plan are now in operation

and working very successfully. Dr. Phelps visits the Home once each month. During the year 1944, the technician gave 1906 treatments on cerebral palsy cases.

In August 1942, the Sister Kenney method of treatment for infantile paralysis was introduced into the Home. Three Kenny-trained technicians are in attendance at all times, and in 1944 gave 12,855 treatments. 100 Volunteer Aides of the Home under the direction of a trained Kenny nurse, spent 10,400 hours in applying the Kenny packs in this same year. The Home admitted 107 patients during 1944, of which 48 were "polio" patients. These children came from thirty-three towns in the State, representing Union, Essex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Middlesex, Sussex, Hudson, Warren and Hunterdon Counties.

Funds for the operation of the Children's Country Home are raised by public subscription, special gifts and legacies, aided by State and Federal funds. Also by the Senior Auxiliary founded in 1938, and the Cosmopolitan Club.

The Red Cross has requested a course in Kenny packing for Nurses' Aides, and a request from the National foundation for Infantile Paralysis for a course for nurses from the Visiting Nurses Associations of four nearby towns, including both theory and practice in the Kenny method, shows the added interest exhibited in the good work done by the Children's Country Home.

Coles Memorial Home

In 1905, Dr. J. Ackerman Coles, in memory of his mother, Mrs. Caroline E. Ackerman Coles, and his aunt, Mrs. Jeanie C. Ackerman Buchness, presented to the Newark Orphan Asylum approximately twenty acres of land in Mountainside. The property, which included an abundance of farm land and orchards, as well as wooded land, along Route 29, was an ideal summer home for the unfortunate city youngsters.

The large house on the hilltop above the brook was supplied with 125 beds, complete with mattresses and pillows, innumerable china dishes and cutlery, by Dr. Coles, who also had tables and benches built for the children's dining room. Friends and organizations supporting the Orphan Asylum saw to it that their Country Home was comfortably and completely furnished.



Coles Memorial Orphans Home before alterations were made

Dr. Coles had had steps built down the hill to the brook, and a platform under the bridge, where seats were placed so that children could be watched as they enjoyed wading and splashing and playing in the cool water.

After the first summer, Dr. Coles remodeled the original house, adding two large wings on either side. He also had the barn built. This contained room for horses, carriages and cows, and work room for the boys.

For some years, the children spent six months of the year here, gardening in their little plots and helping in the larger one for their use; also assisting in putting up some of the surplus for their winter use. Later, however, the summer period ran from the end of June to the opening of school in September.

About 1936 or 1937, the barn was converted into additional living quarters with dormitory, staff bedroom, modern plumbing and facilities for hot water. This building has since been loaned to the Mountainside Defense Council for use as a Casualty Hospital for the duration of the War.

In 1941 and 1942, the youngsters of the Newark Orphans



Coles Memorial Orphans Home as remodeled in 1906-1907

Home had as their guests in Mountainside, underprivileged boys and girls from Newark. However, due to transportation difficulties in 1943, for the first time in thirty-eight years, none of the orphans were able to make their usual pilgrimage to the country, and Mr. William Weeks, the present caretaker, spent a lonely summer. Last year and this, however, saw the children back again, and we all hope they can continue to come out every year from now on.

The present committee in charge of the Memorial Home for the Newark Orphan Asylum are: Mrs. C. Louis Foster, Miss Johanna L. Stobaeus and Mrs. J. Wallace Hurff of South Orange; Mrs. C. E. Young of Chatham, Mrs. C. O. Belling of Montclair, Mrs. G. A. Allsopp, Jr. of East Orange and Mrs. W. W. Drewry of Summit.

The Highland Home

In consideration of the active interest always taken by her father, Dr. J. Ackerman Coles, and of her uncle Warren Ackerman, in the religious, physical and educational training of children,

Miss Emilie S. Coles has given to the Association to Maintain a Home for the Friendless, of Newark, New Jersey, a house and some thirty-odd acres of land at Coles Avenue and New Providence Road in Mountainside.

This gift was made in 1909, and after a well was driven through 296 feet of rock, commodious dormitories built, and a Chapel erected, the children spent their first summer vacation there, and have been doing so for the past thirty-four years.

Mrs. Jessie M. Dunstan is now Directress of the Home for Friendless.

* * *

Mountainside is indeed fortunate in being the refuge of all these unfortunate children, don't you think so?

CHAPTER X

Public Parks

Echo Lake Park

ECHO Lake Park was started between 1924-25 by the Union County Park Commission. Half in Mountainside and half in Westfield, its beauty is widely known and its facilities for recreation are used extensively, not only by the residents in Mountainside, but by people from all the surrounding counties.

When gasoline was plentiful (and now) streams of cars flowed through the Park in early Spring, enjoying the azaleas and the beauty of the rock garden blooms, and the woodland bulb plantings. As the weather grows warmer, enjoyment is had from the many picnic spots equipped with fireplaces, both along the lake shore, and up the wooded hillsides; boating, fishing in season, horseshoe pitching, badminton, bicycling and croquet. Upon application to the Park Commission, game kits may be had upon deposit of a reasonable sum by larger groups of people. Softball games are a common sight through the season, and the youngsters enjoy the swings and slides, as well as the supervised playgrounds during the week. Hiking clubs, bird fanciers, photography groups and just plain nature lovers are seen all year round. In the winter the slopes offer excellent coasting, and the lake ideal skating. The main drawing cards, however, seem to be that "getting away from it all" feeling obtained from lolling on the green, feeding the ducks and making raids on the refreshment stand.

Watchung Reservation

About 1982 acres along the Watchung Mountains in Summit, Springfield, New Providence and Mountainside (mostly the latter), were set aside as a Reservation in the years 1924-25. It



Courtesy, Union County Park Commission.

View of water-wheel dam as it was in 1933 and as it looked after
the dam broke in 1938—it was never repaired.



Courtesy, John Edwards



General Landscape View in Echo Lake Park below the dam.
Courtesy, Union County Park Commission.



Boating on Surprise Lake, Watchung Reservation.
Courtesy, Union County Park Commission.



The Old Look-out Tower (from which yesterday's visitors used to see the sights)—long since torn down and replaced by a modern structure. *Courtesy, Elizabeth Daily Journal.*



Side view of Cabin near Surprise Lake, and steps leading to loop Parking Area—Watchung Reservation. *Courtesy, Union County Park Commission.*

is widely famed among motorists for the breath-taking loveliness of its flowering dogwood. However, its excellent winding roads offer gorgeous views of woodland and the surrounding countryside at all seasons of the year.

In addition to all the attractions offered by Echo Lake Park, the Reservation offers camping for all comers, including cabins for Boy and Girl Scouts; riding at the excellent Watchung Stables, which also advertises riding lessons; sleighing parties in the winter, and wooded trails to explore all year round.

The observation tower, 575 feet above sea level, gives one an excellent view on clear days, as do many parking circles located throughout the area. The Trailside Museum, begun in 1941, open on Saturdays and Sundays from May throughout the summer from 2 to 5 p.m., displays various nature exhibits, both inside and out, native to Union County, and the marked courses of the Nature Trail are most interesting to follow.

The Union County Park Commission has developed nearly twenty acres in the Reservation as a nursery, of which approximately fifteen acres are now planted with various types of plant material for future use in Park areas.

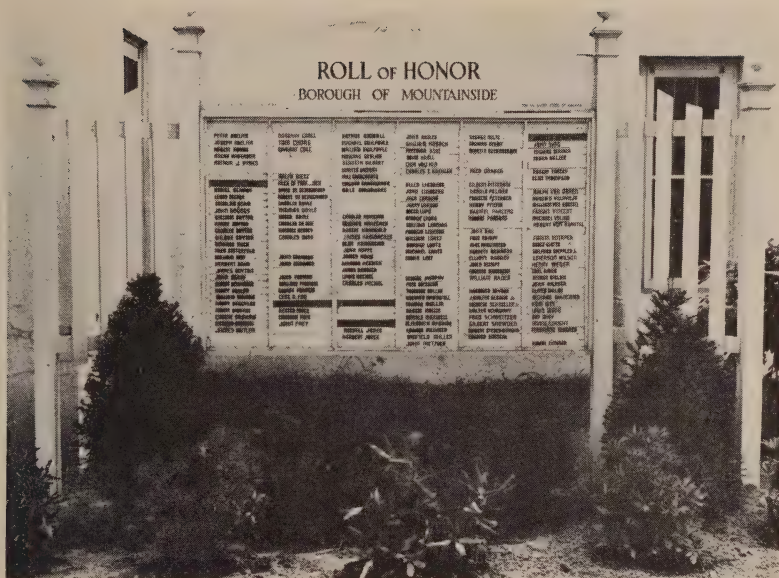
CHAPTER XI

Mountainside Honor Roll

THIS Honor Roll is compiled as of the end of September, 1945. The Fire Department had originally prepared an Honor Roll which proved to be inadequate, and a group of citizens finally petitioned the Council to provide funds for an adequate Honor Roll. The Council appointed as a committee to work on this, Forest Johnson, Chairman; H. E. Honecker of the Fire Department; and Norman Woolley and W. F. Rau of the Borough Council. Forest Johnson took care of the grading and planting, and H. E. Honecker designed and built the Honor Roll, honoring the men and women from Mountainside serving in all branches of the service—Army, Navy, Marines, Seabees, WAC, WAVES, all of the Air Corps, and the Red Cross. At the unveiling of the Honor Roll, the Fire Department erected and presented to the Borough, a flag pole dedicated to the memory of Fred Schweitzer, who lost his life fighting a fire on Central Avenue.

In June 1943, Councilman Woolley appointed Mrs. H. E. Honecker to keep the Honor Roll up-to-date. During this past month, the boy scouts have completely regraded and reseeded the front lawn of the Borough Hall, surrounding the Honor Roll, and the Borough Council has had new shrubbery planted.

Early in the War, Alan Lindberg was reported missing, and in the first part of 1945 John Rau was also reported missing. Those who have given their lives are: Robert E. Johnson, George Boyton, Justi R. Schmidt, Harold Force, Michael Iannacone, and Charles Dunn. Charles Honecker, Jr. was reported as missing in 1944, and was later located as a prisoner of war in Germany. He has since been released and has enjoyed a furlough at home, before going back into action.



Abelita, Joseph
 Abelita, Peter
 Adams, Robert G.
 Anderson, Oscar E.
 Anthony, Roscoe E.
 Antonak, George
 Ayers, Arthur J.
 Bahr, Herbert
 Bates, Paul M.
 Bates, Pual M., Jr.
 Beam, Douglas N.
 Becker, Lewis W.
 Beechler, Harry W.
 Behlau, Harry
 Benninger, Albert J.
 Berry, John
 Best, Wm. F.
 Bisterfeld, Fred
 Bliwise, Daniel
 Bori, Stanley W.

Bounds, John C.
 Bounds, William D.
 Boyton, Charles
 Boyton, George
 Boyton, Harry W.
 Boyton, James E.
 Boyton, Wilbur
 Boyton, William D.
 Brahm, Arthur C.
 Brokaw, Eugene
 Brokaw, Robert
 Buck, Bernard
 Butler, James R.
 Byers, Howard J.
 Carll, Dorothy G.
 Cene-n-Feu
 Chung, Tom
 Cole, Wynant
 DeBeauchamp, David
 DeBeauchamp, Robert

DeBue, Charles
 Derry, Randall
 Dey-Whe
 Dietz, Ralph
 DiFrancisco, Alex
 Doyle, Charles
 Doyle, Roger
 Doyle, Thomas
 Dunn, Charles
 Edwards, George B.
 Edwards, John A.
 Edwards, John W.
 Farnum, John
 Farnum, Willard
 Force, G. Dexter
 Force, Harold
 Francis, George
 Frey, Edmund
 Frey, John E.
 Gabriel, Walter

Galloway, Leslie
 Gangaware, Dale R.
 Gangaware, Edward
 Gilbert, Kenneth
 Goodall, Arthur
 Gosling, Howard
 Grancanato, Inez
 Guilfoyle, Michael
 Guilfoyle, William
 Hambacher, Allen J.
 Hambacher, James
 Hanewald, Robert
 Heckel, Charles J.
 Heckel, Louis
 Herrick, Bernard
 Herrick, James
 Hoag, James
 Honecker, Charles, Jr.
 Honecker, Edward
 Hoppe, Emil
 Hoppe, John
 Howard, Florence
 Iannacone, Michael
 Johnson, Robert E.
 Jones, Russell
 Joyce, Herbert M.
 Kent, Freeman
 Keuler, John E.
 Kim-Chin Yu
 Kniazuk, Michael
 Knoll, David
 Koehler, Charles T.
 Kubach, William
 Lanning, John
 Lantz, Barney, Jr.
 Lantz, Josephine
 Lantz, Michael
 Lantz, William
 Larson, Gerold
 Leet, Edwin

Lenehan, Francis J.
 Lenehan, William
 Lindberg, Alan
 Lindberg, John R.
 Lowry, Joseph
 Lupo, Rocco
 Lyons, George
 Maxwell, Robert D.
 McDowell, Robert
 McGuire, Elizabeth
 Meisieck, Henry Wm.
 Menerth, Edward, Jr.
 Messina, Frederick
 Messina, Margaret
 Miller, Theodore
 Mullin, Edward
 Mullin, Robert
 Murphy, Blair
 Murphy, George
 Nesbitt, Edward
 Nolte, George
 Nuernberger, Martin
 O'Donnell, James R.
 Onksen, Fred
 Owen, John E.
 Palmer, Arnold
 Parisi, Clifford
 Parsons, Hobart
 Patrick, Wm. I.
 Petersen, Francis
 Pfeifer, Henry
 Pittenger, Gilbert
 Rader, William
 Raimondi, Edward
 Ranney, Elliott
 Rau, John
 Rausenberg, Max
 Robinson, Kenneth
 Rumpf, Fred
 Rumpf, John

Salzer, Frank
 Schmidt, Justi R.
 Schneller, Andrew, Jr.
 Schrumpf, Walter
 Seager, J. Walter
 Seaman, Edward
 Siebenmorgan, Robert
 Sing, John
 Siniscal, Edward
 Snyder, Harrison
 Storms, William
 Tansey, Robert
 Thompson, Alan
 Touzeau, James E.
 Van Doren, Rolfe B.
 Vanning, Robert
 Villavieja, Honorio
 Vincent, Fabian
 Volino, Michael
 Von Borstel, Robert
 Von Borstel, William
 Votapek, Frank
 Wagner, Ferdinand
 Walsh, George E.
 Walsh, Oliver, Jr.
 Watts, Bruce A.
 Weber, Henry, Jr.
 Wee, Hom
 Weppler, Wilford
 Werner, John F.
 Wernsing, Edward
 Whitcomb Richard E.
 Why, Deh
 Wilson, Emerson
 Wong, Louis
 Wood, Carl
 Wright Irving T.
 Zimmer, Robert

Many, many of the boys have been wounded in action, and many, too, have received honors for their services. Among those wounded were: Gilbert Pittenger, Charles Boyton, James Her-
rick, Edward Mullin, Walter Gabriel, and others; while both William Lenehan and Leslie Galloway have been hospitalized due to illness incurred under extreme conditions in service.

A few of the boys on the Honor Roll have received medical discharges, after serving their Country.

THE "BLUE STAR DRIVE"

Mountainside has been honored, along with Scotch Plains and North Plainfield, by sharing in the setting for the "Blue Star Drive"—a living tribute to the boys and girls in service from the State of New Jersey. Five thousand flowering dogwood trees will be planted for six miles along Highway 29 by the State Highway Department. The project is sponsored by the State Garden Clubs. The name was chosen to symbolize the blue star on the service flags hanging in the windows of hundreds of thousands of New Jersey homes.

Funds are being raised for the planting by public subscription through the Garden Clubs (including Mountainside's). The trees will be purchased from New Jersey nurseries at one dollar for five-foot nursery grown trees and two dollars for trees of blooming size. The State Highway Department has agreed to plant and maintain every donated tree.

The dedication of "Blue Star Drive" was scheduled to have been made on October 10, 1944, by Governor Walter E. Edge. However, due to his illness, his place was taken by State Senator Herbert Pascoe. State Highway Commissioner Spencer Miller, Jr. presided at the dedication which took place at the triangular parkway east of Mountainside Union Chapel. Camp Kilmer Band played several selections, including "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer. An address was also made by Mrs. Lewis M. Hull, President of the Garden Clubs of New Jersey, and Mrs. Vance R. Hood, chairman of the Blue Star Drive Committee (Butler Garden Club), presented the spade for planting to Senator Pascoe.

Senator Pascoe and State Senator H. Rivington Pyne unveiled the BLUE STAR MEMORIAL sign which is inscribed

in blue lettering with the words—

“Living Trust to the New Jersey Sons and Daughters of World War II, a Road Side Planting of Flowering Dogwood Trees, the Project of the Garden Clubs of New Jersey, with the Cooperation of the New Jersey State Highway Department.”

The State Tree was planted in the triangle in the name of the State, following the unveiling of the sign.

It is expected the Mountainside Union Chapel will be the repository of a “memory book” with the names of service men and women honored in conjunction with the BLUE STAR DRIVE.

CHAPTER XII

Mountainside Defense Council and War Service Board

AT a Borough Council meeting on January 14, 1941, Mayor Thompson appointed the following men to act as the Mountainside Defense Council: Charles Wadas, Edward Menerth, Herman Honecker, Frank Lenehan, Charles Honecker, Lester Cramer and Frederick Rumpf.

Mr. Lenehan was chosen Chairman at the first meeting, and all of the above served with the exception of Mr. Rumpf. No definite minutes of the meetings were kept until Harold Bliwise was elected Secretary-Treasurer on December 17, 1941. However, between January 14 and December 17, two new members were added—Richard Keller and John Moxon.

Up until January 14, 1944, meetings were held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. After that date they were held on the first Wednesday of the month.

On March 25, 1942, the Defense Council notified Mr. Leonard Dreyfuss that the name of the Mountainside Commander was John Moxon; second in command was Meirl Hoy, Chairman, who replaced Frank Lenehan (Mr. Lenehan having resigned); and the third in command was the Chief of Police, Charles Honecker.

In the beginning, Mr. Alan Thompson, Borough Attorney, informed the Defense Council (Jan. 14, 1942) that no municipal Defense Council has the power of handling funds. In the future all expenditures by the Defense Council were to be ratified and paid by the Mayor and Borough Council. At that time a check for their total funds, \$471.45, was turned over to W. F. Lanning, Treasurer of Mountainside. This ruling appears to have changed,

though, as on May 13, 1942, the Secretary-Treasurer was authorized to open an account with the First National Bank of Westfield, which account is to be drawn on by the Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer.

The Control Center of the Mountainside Defense Council is at present, and has been located in the Police Station. The Borough Siren is used to announce alerts, and a teletype machine has been installed to receive these alerts, there having been some difficulty in getting the signals through Scotch Plains. The Control Center is thoroughly provided with black-out equipment, and is manned during all alerts by the following: Chief of Police, Chief of Fire Department, Mayor, Captain of Rescue Squad, Chairman of Defense Council, and Chief Air Raid Warden, plus the Chairman of Communications.

When the Council was first set up, Chief of Police Honecker was instructed to establish an auxiliary police force, and Fire Chief Herman Honecker to establish an auxiliary fire department.

Auxiliary Police

The original members of the Auxiliary Police Force were: Captain George Force, who resigned September 8, 1943, Lt. C. B. Murphy, Robert Seibenmorgan, Fred Revaz (no longer in the Borough), Chas. Fritz, Frank Chapot, Bernard Buck (now in service), M. Chattin, M. Wright, Charles Thorn and Ralph Dietz. Mr. Siebenmorgan has since entered the armed forces, and Ralph Dietz was also in, but has since received his discharge.

On November 10, 1943, Murphy was appointed Captain, and Chapot, Lieutenant. New officers taken on since May 1943 are: Emmet Dugan, Charles Carson, Oscar Smiset (no longer in the Borough), Arthur Minich and Clifford Wiseman.

The equipment of the Police Reserves consists of twelve guns and holsters, a gas gun, twelve Sam Browne belts, eleven overcoats, eleven pairs of pants, eleven hats, thirteen helmets, eleven black-jacks and eleven shirts. This is in accordance with the Police Chief's records as of November 1, 1943. These Reserves were all trained at the Westfield Adult School for Police Reserves, and are required to report to all police and fire calls, according to the resolution passed by Commander Moxon at the April 14, 1943, meeting of the Defense Council. They must also ride, alternately,

for two hours each Sunday with the Policeman on duty in the Police car. Training was also received at the Westfield Pistol and Rifle Club.

Auxiliary Firemen

Mr. Herman Honecker, Fire Chief, put in a call for auxiliary firemen. Those originally responding were Edward McGuire, Theodore Mundy and Joseph Chattin. Walter Young, Robert Mullins, Walter Haupt, Edward Mullins, C. Honecker, J., Wm. Lenehan, Jean Young and W. F. Rau have been added since then, along with Russell Knapp, Jack MacRae, Chas. Dunn, Mrs. H. E. Honecker, James Hambacher and William Hoppe. Several of these have later gone into service: Edward and Robert Mullins, Charles Honecker, Jr., Wm. Lenehan, Chas. Dunn, and James Hambacher. William Hoppe has gone into the Merchant Marine, Russell Knapp resigned due to illness and Theodore Mundy has moved from the Borough.

Mr. Honecker took the Edgewood Arsenal Course at Edgewood Arsenal, Md., January 26, 1942, which course was paid for by the Defense Council.

The Auxiliaries are expected to attend all fire calls along with the regular volunteer fire department, and all have taken training in fire-bomb extinguishing, gas identification, first aid, etc.

To the regular equipment of the Fire Department has been added for war emergency service, a gas "sniff set" for identification of all types of known gases, as well as a booster pump, and an O.C.D. Pumper. This last was received in May, 1944, and the gas to operate it is supplied by the Fire Department, while the oil is supplied by the Defense Council.

Air Raid Wardens

Mr. Edward Menerth was appointed Chief of Air Raid Wardens and has continued in that capacity since January 1, 1942. On February 11, he appointed Robert Davidson as Deputy, and both Mr. Menerth and the Deputy remain at the Control Center to receive calls during each alert.

Mr. Menerth divided the town into four zones composed of three sections each. The Wardens selected were to work in conjunction with Park Police for protection of any people who might

be in Echo Lake Park. In addition to their regular alert duties, the Wardens checked on dim-out violations when the dim-out went into effect, passed out the necessary charts issued by the State Defense Council, and canvassed the Borough on the soldier vote applications. Each is equipped with armband, whistle, helmet and fingerprinted identification card.

Those serving as Wardens and Warden-alternates, together with their posts, are: A. J. Ahearn, Hillside Avenue; Margaret D. Alpers and Ernest Alpers, Hillside Avenue; John Arrowsmith and Dorothy Boyton, Highway 29 to Hoppe's and Summit Road; Fred W. Bauer, Mill Lane; Alice J. Bitzer, Ackerman Ave. above Welty's; Arthur Bliwise, Borough Hall Triangle; Chas. G. Brokaw, New Providence Road north side of Mountain Ave. to Children's Country Home; Rev. S. Thos. Burns, Cedar and Poplar Ave. (Rev. Burns no longer resides here); Dorothy D. Chapot, Deer Path and Tanager Way; H. G. Codet alternate for E. P. Jones, Bayberry Lane and Hillside; Chas. Condon, Birch Hill Road; Paul K. Davis and Marie Davis, Deer Path to Partridge Run; Robert Davidson, Control Center; Charles A. DeBue, Springfield Road; Chas. A. Dunn, Control Center; J. A. Edwards, Mountain Ave.; J. P. Edwards, Mountain Ave., New Providence Road to Westfield line; Frank G. Evans alternate to E. Fred Sulzer, Coles Ave. and Highland Home; Robert L. Foose and alternate Chas. Shomo, Zone Leader, Home; Thomas E. Ford, Childrens' Country Home; Herbert B. Gibbs and Clara Gibbs, Evergreen Court; Michael Granconato, Locust Ave.; Alfred C. Heckel and Mrs. Heckel, Summit Road; Lewis E. Heckel and Gertrude Heckel, Summit Road to Highway; Edward G. Hofmann, Oak Tree Road; H. J. Kazmar and wife as alternate, New Providence Road; R. O. Kristiansen, Partridge Run; Thomas Lausten, Route 29, New Providence Road to Scotch Plains; Mary E. Leet, Evergreen Court; G. L. Matteer with wife as alternate, Deer Path to Partridge Run, Dogwood Way, Park Slope and Ackerman Ave., Donald R. Maxwell and Donald G. Maxwell, home and Mountain Ave.; E. F. Menerth, Control Center; F. G. Palcanis, Mountain Ave. and Tanglewood Lane; Raymond W. Peters, Mountain View Drive; J. M. Pfeuffer, with alternates, Mrs. Pfeuffer, E. Skidmore and R. E. Robinson, Home; F. E. Robinson also Summit Road to Darby's; P. T. Rottstock,

Birch Hill Road; Leslie Smith, Orchard Road; E. J. Thurston, alternate to Rottstock.

Also: H. C. Weber, Jr. with Mr. Weber, Sr. as alternate, Central Ave.; A. B. Welty, Jr. with wife as alternate, Dogwood Way, Park Slope, Deer Path to Partridge Run and Ackerman Ave.; R. V. Whetsel, Partridge Run; Richard E. Whitcomb, Deer Path and Tanager Way; Norman W. Woolley with wife as alternate, Coles Ave. and home. Mr. Charles Shomo was, in 1945, appointed as Deputy Air Raid Warden also.

Medical Service

There was no provision for medical service (Mountainside having no doctor of its own), and Mr. Richard Keller was entrusted with the position of searching out medical aid.

The Westfield Red Cross at that time was to take care of emergency food distribution in the Borough, if the need arose, but arrangements have been made since then with two restaurants in the Borough for this purpose.

Mr. Keller was given the responsibility of setting up a medical corps as required here, on February 4, 1942, by Dr. Bourns, Chief of Emergency Medical Service in our district. Keller worked on this in conjunction with Doctors Bourns, Salvati and Armstrong of the Medical Commission of Westfield, and finally secured the out-building of the Coles Memorial Home for an Emergency Casualty Station, about which I have already told you.

Original Ration Board

On January 1, 1942, the Defense Council met to set up a Tire Rationing Committee to take office on January 5. A committee of three, composed of Messrs Alan Johnston, Harry Lake and Charles Brokaw, with Harry Bliwise as alternate, was appointed.

Eventually, this Board had to handle not only the rationing of tires, but also sugar and gasoline. Volunteer clerks assisting were: Mrs. James H. Hoag, Mrs. William Stevenson, and Mrs. Walter Rupp. School teachers and members of the P.T.A. assisted in the registrations for the various ration books issued.

However, in July 1942, the Mountainside Ration Board was

consolidated with that of Westfield, which is now known as Ration Board No. 4, and covers Garwood, Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Mr. Alan Johnston was carried over to Board 4, and served until 1944. Later Mr. W. B. Coles was appointed (on September 23, 1942) but he has since entered the Service. Mrs. James H. Hoag volunteered her services to Westfield Board 4 for quite some time after the consolidation, and also served there after moving to Westfield from Mountainside, as a salaried clerk in the fuel oil division. She resigned, however, in 1944.

On February 4, 1942, the Defense Council named James Huff's and Charles A. Dunn's service stations as Tire Inspection Stations.

Communications

Mr. A. Benninger was placed in charge of communications on April 2, 1942, but upon entering the Services on November 20, 1942, was replaced by Walter Messenger. Due to Mr. Messenger's absence from the Borough, Mr. Wadas handled communications.

Boys and girls serving as messengers under Communications were: Robert Young, Richard McDowell, Richard Young, Myrtle Messina, Robert Shomo, Charles Shomo, Pete Onksen, Emerson Wilson, Harold Force, John Eberenz, Stuart Snowden, Robert Honecker, John Edwards, Paul Offerman, Helen Duran, Loris Ann Winckler, Andrew Schneller.

Defense Notes

On June 10, 1942, Commander Moxon appointed Theodore Mundy, Herman Honecker, Charles Wadas and Mrs. W. B. Coles to take charge of a Fourth of July celebration. This was very well attended by Borough residents, and a repeat was requested for the following year. In 1943 Mr. F. H. Stedman was in charge of the celebration for both the Defense Council and Civic Council. The same group ran the 1944 affair.

At each alert, there seemed to be a question of whom to call first. The question was finally settled at the September 9, 1942, meeting, when the following list was approved: Mayor (Commander); Alternate, Mr. Hoy; Chief of Police; Chief of Police Reserves; Chief of Air Raid Wardens; First Aid (Mr. Keller);

Chief of Fire Department; Communications, all in that order. This form of calling was used at all times, except between 8 a.m. and 4 p. m. when Mr. Wadas at the school got the first call.

The Defense Council arranged with Deputy Nurse Ruth Kubach to hold Home Nursing classes in 1942, and both Austin Johnson and Richard Keller held First Aid classes in 1942, 1943 and 1944. Mrs. Kubach was the registered nurse in charge of the Casualty Station until she obtained a leave of absence in March 1943 and was replaced by Mrs. Kathleen Norris, R.N. Mrs. Kubach has since returned to her position.

On November 20, 1942, Miss Hazel Heckel was appointed Assistant Secretary, and she served in that capacity, assisting Harold Bliwise, until October 27, 1943, when Mrs. Harry Parsons was appointed as Secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. Parsons resigned due to illness in 1944, and has been replaced by Mrs. C. B. Murphy.

As of November 20, 1942, the members of the Defense Council were: John Moxon, Commander; Meirl Hoy, Chairman; Edward Menerth, Chief of Air Raid Wardens; Charles Wadas; Ernest Johnson; Dr. Maya Unna; F. H. Stedman (these last three appointed as of that date, though serving before); Ruth Kubach, appointed August 12, 1942; Mrs. H. J. Kazmar, appointed March 2, 1942; Walter Messenger, appointed November 20, 1942; Herman Honecker, Charles Honecker, Albert Benninger and Richard Keller.

For quite some time the burden on these members of the Council had been growing heavier, and on February 10, 1943, Commander Moxon appointed a "publicity committee," the functions of which were to get manpower and womanpower for volunteer work; and to obtain lists of all the people working in any way at all for the Defense Council. The most important outgrowth of this committee was the appointment on April 14, 1943, of Mr. Harry Parsons as Personnel Officer. His duties are handling of all files and records of the Protective Service, and claims for compensation. Upon the resignation of Mrs. Kazmar as Chairman of the Community War Service, on May 12, 1943, Mr. Parsons accepted that post as well.

As I mentioned before, at various times there was slight trouble in receiving alert signals, hence the installation of the

teletype. Before its purchase, however, the Defense Council's mind was eased by Memo No. 71 from the State Defense, dated February 25, 1943, to the effect that in case of emergency, Mountainside could obtain help from the Union County Control Center which had been set up in Elizabeth.

Even though the Springfield Sun had been officially designated as Mountainside's newspaper, many people do not subscribe to that paper, and therefore notices of scrap drives or any other Defense items were not seen by the residents. It was, therefore, voted to install bulletin boards in strategic points around the Borough, these points being: Dunn's Service Station, Bliwise's General Store, Borough Hall, and Mountainside Drug Store. On these are posted all important news bulletins which are of current interest. Mr. F. H. Stedman was appointed to get the boards and through him the Standard Oil Company donated four for our use—a red, white and blue color scheme, with the heading "Mountainside Defense News."

Education, Child Care and Evacuation

With reference to these three items, I can tell you the following. The question of a Women's Motor Corps to evacuate school children in case of air raid, came up. However, the State Defense Council finally made the decision that the children should not be evacuated from the schools in Mountainside on account of air raids, but only in event of troop movements.

Mr. Wadas was in charge of Evacuation, and Mrs. Wynant B. Cole had a list of key women in each neighborhood to oversee the children's evacuation, if necessary. It was found during trials that it takes thirty minutes, approximately, to get all children from the school to their homes. In August, 1942, this idea was dispensed with and Mr. Wadas announced the school teachers would be responsible for getting the children home.

Two air raid drills were held each week in the school, and all precautionary items provided, that is, sand, first aid equipment, mesh on windows, etc. On January 10, 1943, Mr. Wadas announced that the school had been given the Minute Man Flag for 100% in War Savings Bonds, and the children, as you know, are still very active in both selling and buying War Stamps and Bonds.

The school children, through the Junior Garden Club, have planted victory gardens each year, and have sold seeds throughout the Borough. In April, 1944, Miss Ernestine Visney, Assistant Home Demonstration Agent of Union County, and leader of 4H Club work in the County, spoke to the youngsters regarding their plans for Victory Gardens. Additional ribbons were awarded to contestants in the exhibit for 1942, and war stamps were also given as prizes.

In October 1943, the Mountainside Civic Council established Saturday night dances for teen-age youngsters, but after the first month or so, not many attended, so the affairs were finally abandoned in February, 1944. In this same month Mr. Wadas organized the Mountainside Athletic Association, open to boys between the ages of 14 and 21. They met in the school each Wednesday night. An offshoot of this club is the "Rangers," a basketball team composed of Mountainside boys attending Regional High. Their games are played away from their home court, as Mountainside School's auditorium is not "regulation" size for basketball, being entirely too short.

In August 1943, Mr. Wadas reported that the Union County Park Commission was providing recreation at Echo Lake Park for the children of Mountainside with regularly scheduled playground activities in charge of playground teachers. This was continued in 1944 but not 1945. The playground was open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Some of their activities were: jump rope contests, potato races, carving, puzzles which the children make, marbles, shuffleboard, bead stringing, hobby shows, races, hop scotch, etc. In short, contests of all sorts so dear to the hearts of children, plus crafts in which they are all interested. At the end of the season, each child who had been awarded 200 points in the activities within the playground received a badge. The child gaining first place in a contest received 20 points; second place, 15 points; third place, 10 points; and for entering a contest, 5 points. Each day a poster was displayed telling the program planned for the next day. Mrs. Mildred Rulison of the Trailside Museum at Surprise Lake visited the playground one day weekly, giving illustrated talks and discussing animal and plant life in and around Mountainside. The playground idea was most successful.

Victory Gardens

You are quite familiar with the Victory Garden plans of the Defense Council, but do you know who assisted Commander Moxon in his work in developing the interest of the Borough? Well, he served alone, until 1943, when he appointed Mr. Ralph Hill to fill his place as Victory Garden Chairman in 1944. Mr. Hill appointed a committee of four to help distribute information received from the Federal and State governments, and to give any other assistance requested by interested gardeners. These four were Messrs. F. B. Heitkamp, H. C. Weber, Sr., W. F. Lanning and Joseph H. Hershey. Garden displays were proudly set up at both the 1943 and 1944 Fourth of July celebrations.

Salvage Division

Much of the money supporting the Defense Council comes from their scrap and salvage drives. On March 25, 1942, Mr. Robert Davidson was appointed to make a complete survey and set up a Salvage committee for Victory. He was unable to accept the appointment, and F. H. Stedman was then selected on April 8, 1942.

The first collection of papers and magazines was held on Sunday, April 26, 1942, from the sale of which \$93.64 was realized. The Boy Scouts who had assisted, received \$30.00 for their efforts. Regular paper collections have been made since that time.

Scrap iron and tin, as well as used rubber collections have also been made, but not enough to make it worthwhile turning in. In December, 1942, Mr. Stedman requested that a dozen wooden barrels be placed in strategic points around the Borough, making it easy for the housewives to deposit tin cans between collections. However, in June 1944, arrangements were made with Westfield's collectors of tin to pick up Mountainside's burden.

On November 30, 1943, a collection of old but usable clothes, for people in liberated countries, was held. 1875 pieces of clothing were collected during the drive, an average of $1\frac{1}{2}$ garments per person. We were the first in the county to deliver our collection to Elizabeth, and we were commended on the drive, having contributed 3% of the total from Union County, which was 9% better than the average for the County. Another successful drive was held in April, this year.

Those who have assisted in all these collections are: Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Rangers and Girl Scouts, as well as these people good enough to lend their trucks: T. Quaglietto, Fred Honecker, Herman Honecker, Norman Woolley, Donald Maxwell, W. Rau, Herbert Gibbs, Wallace Winckler, Drewette's, Meirl Hoy, Jean Young, and others. The Fire Department also assisted.

Due to the pressure of business, Mr. Stedman resigned in 1945 as Salvage Chairman, and has been replaced by Mr. David Riker.

Consumer and Nutrition Information

On May 13, 1942, information received from the State Defense Council regarding a meeting of the Interests Committee in Bamberger's, Newark, was turned over to Mrs. H. J. Kazmar, who had been elected Chairman of the Local Consumers' Interest Committee on March 25, 1942. In November of that year, she was asked to make a house-to-house canvas for block leaders to distribute all defense material issued by the Government on waste fat, food conservation, victory gardens, etc. Each leader was to have about fifteen families under her jurisdiction. Mrs. Kazmar was never able to fill her quota of Block Leaders, and the material did not come through as anticipated, so this matter died out.

Through the organization of Local Food Conservation Committees, Mrs. Mary Armstrong, County Home Demonstration Agent, worked with Mrs. Kazmar in holding canning demonstrations at the school. They also held tailoring classes, discussions on Child Care, Budgeting, etc. All-day Consumer sessions were held at the Westfield YWCA on canning assistance for those interested. The Home Extension Demonstration room in Elizabeth Court House is open to the public one day a week, and canning and other facilities may be used on that day. Canning demonstrations were also held for a while in Regional High, with Mrs. T. V. Mundy of the Borough, assisting.

Defense Personnel

For the years 1944 and 1945, the members of the Mountain-side Defense Council and their respective departments, were: Meirl C. Hoy, Chairman; John Moxon, Commander; Edward

Menerth, Chief Air Raid Warden, and Veterans Activities; Harry A. Parsons, Personnel and Community Services Chairman; Mrs. H. A. Parsons (replaced 1945 by Mrs. C. B. Murphy), Secretary, Treasurer and supplies; Charles Wadas, Welfare and Recreation Chairman, Housing and Evacuation; Charles Honecker, Police Reserves, Transportation and Evacuation Officer, and Veterans Activities; Herman Honecker, Fire Reserves, Demolition and Rescue and Repair; Richard Keller, Deputy Emergency Medical; Francis Stedman (lately David Riker), Salvage Chairman; Walter Messenger, Communications; Mrs. H. J. Kazmar, Consumer Information and Nutrition; Ralph N. Hill, Victory Garden Chairman; and Mrs. Joseph Hershey, Historian.

Red Cross

In the Red Cross Surgical Dressings group, there were about thirty to forty steady workers under the direction of Mrs. C. N. Thorn, Jr. who worked about 5749 hours, and turned out 104,875 surgical dressings.

The Knitting Group with about twenty workers under the direction of Mrs. P. K. Davis, contributed 4452 hours, finishing 266 garments, including such vitally needed articles as sweaters, watch caps, helmets, Army and Navy scarfs, rifle mitts, wristlets, and many other warm pieces of clothing.

The Sewing Department had about thirty workers under the direction of Mrs. A. D. Sawyer, who put in 2926 hours in the Domestic Science Room at the school, and produced 1002 articles. These included pneumonia gowns, operating gowns, bed jackets, shirts, hospital gowns, pajamas, kit bags, baby clothes and many more articles for which there is a constant demand.

The Surgical Dressings division was originally under the direction of Mrs. Wynant B. Cole.

Mr. C. B. Murphy has been in charge of Red Cross campaigns, and has been assisted by the Boy Scouts, as well as such people as Mrs. Gilbert Pittenger, Mrs. Charles Honecker, Mrs. Winfield Rau, Mrs. LeRoy Minton, Mrs. T. V. Mundy, Mrs. Charles Fritz, Miss Frances Doyle, Leslie Smith, Mrs. John Ferguson and William VanNest.

While it would be impossible to give an accurate list of all the workers assisting in surgical dressings, knitting and sewing



Part of display in Maxwell's window, showing merely a part of the work done by the Mountainside Red Cross. *Courtesy Springfield Sun.*

for the Red Cross, some of those serving most diligently were: Mrs. M. P. Chattin, Mrs. W. B. Cole, Mrs. G. B. Danenhauer, Mrs. P. K. Davis, Mrs. Ralph Dietz, Mrs. Dorchek, Miss Frances Doyle, Mrs. R. Eitel, Mrs. Harold Engleman, Mrs. John Ferguson, Mrs. John Frey, Mrs. G. Grancanato, Mrs. J. Ham-

bacher, Mrs. F. Kent, Mrs. H. E. Honecker, Mrs. Louis Jennings, Mrs. Marian Joyce, Mrs. A. Juergensen, Mrs. W. Lanning, Mrs. B. Lantz, Mrs. Leslie Leet, Mrs. E. Meisieck, Mrs. E. Menerth, Mrs. Richard Muehlhofer, Mrs. Malcolm Chattin, Mrs. T. V. Mundy, Mrs. Moeller, Mrs. R. McCollum, Mrs. M. C. MacMartin, Mrs. I. Poulsen, Mrs. William Parkhurst, Mrs. Gilbert Pittenger, Mrs. Clarence Robbins, Mrs. Fred Roeder, Miss Katherine Rodgers, Mrs. Fred Rumpf, Mrs. Walter Rupp, Mrs. Adelaide Sawyer, Mrs. H. Schrumpf, Mrs. Charles Shomo, Mrs. Robert Seibenmorgan, Mrs. Leslie Smith, Mrs. D. Stevenson, Mrs. C. N. Thorn, Mrs. E. P. Turner, Mrs. W. Twyman, Mrs. Henry Weber, Sr., Mrs. E. Wilcox, Mrs. C. M. Wilson, Mrs. W. W. Young, Jr., Mrs. Edward Webster, Mrs. Jerome Bitzer, Mrs. Charles Wadas and Mrs. G. Baldwin. Also Mrs. Harold Clarke, Mrs. Herbert Gibbs, Mrs. E. Hofmann, Mrs. Charles Honecker, Mrs. William Hoppe, Mrs. M. C. Hoy, Mrs. Nelson Jacobus, Mrs. Wm. Jacobus, Vivian Kiley, Jeannette Knapp, Mrs. Russell Knapp, Mrs. D. C. Knoll, Mrs. F. McDowell, Mrs. Edward McGuire, Miss Margaret Messina, Mrs. John Moxon, Mrs. R. C. Oberdahn, Mrs. E. P. Heuger, Mrs. K. Palcanis, Mrs. W. F. Rau, Mrs. M. Butler, Mrs. H. T. Byers, Margot Schaeffer, Mrs. L. Sevebeck, Mrs. F. H. Stedman, Mrs. W. Storms, Mrs. F. Wagner, Mrs. Albert Welty, Mrs. J. M. Wright, Mrs. J. D. Young and Thelma Young.

Nurses' Aides

Unknown to the general public, several women have given a great deal of their time and effort, assisting quietly at hospitals in this area. After many hours of training, Mrs. F. Spitzhoff, Mrs. William Babcock and Mrs. Temple Patton have been of great help in Muhlenberg, while Mrs. J. B. Hanna, Mrs. Hose and Mrs. W. J. Green have helped with Overlook patients. Mrs. Paul K. Davis has also put in a great many hours at work in Overlook, though not as a nurse's aide.

* * *

Mountainside's "Home Front" has done a good job quietly, without asking for plaudits, but I think we should give a word of thanks to them.

CHAPTER XIII

“Growing Up”

QUITE a change has come over the Borough in its fifty years. Primarily a farming district, disturbed only now and then by fox-hunting parties, there have developed a few industries in late years. The main ones, Somerset Bus and Hall & Fuhs, Inc., were established when the bus line came through in 1925, linking Mountainside with Somerville, Plainfield, Springfield and Newark. (The trolley never did reach Mountainside in 1895, being deflected through Westfield.) These buses along Highway 29 bring the City of Newark's shopping district within a half hour of Mountainside; and other busses running through the Borough link her with New York and other points throughout the whole United States.

Prior to 1925, a local “bus” (at one time a touring car, and later a rebuilt body job carrying about ten passengers) gave spasmodic service between Westfield and Springfield for many years. This service was operated in turn by Harrison Roll, S. Gansil, Harry Boyton, Henry Arrowsmith and Sam Long.

Other industries are mostly outgrowths of the war, such as Dexter Machine Company on Central Avenue, run by George Force, with local help. The exception is Noltes' which though begun years before, has expanded considerably since the beginning of the War.

The first of the “modern conveniences” to reach Mountainside was the telephone—the first being installed in the school on October 11, 1904. Next came the electric lights on Springfield Road by Cook's Farm, in 1911. Water mains were first laid to Bird's Corners on August 11, 1913; then to the Children's Country Home in August 1914. (By the way, did you know the



When the east-bound lane of Route 29 was being cut thru in 1938

Photo by Zimmerman



View looking west, toward site of "Blue Star Drive" Dedication Plaque.

Photo by Zimmerman

Country Home was the Drew estate and John Barrymore used to come out here visiting his Uncle many times?) But to get back to the “improvements”—gas was a late-comer, mains not being laid until 1925.

Mountainside has always had a store—off and on, two stores. At one time in its early days, Schoonover’s was at the present entrance to the Park, and there was one run in connection with a grist mill and ice house about where the dam now is in Echo Lake Park. Schoonover’s store was purchased in 1914 by Harry Bliwise, and moved to its present site when the Park Commission started work on Echo Lake Park. In the early twenties, Bill Meyers had a small store just next to Noltes’ house, about where the garage driveway is now.

In addition to Bliwise’s store (which was remodeled and extended after moving to its present site), we now have the group of stores where New Providence Road meets Woodland Avenue and Mountain Avenue—Mountainside Drug, a beauty parlor, American Stores grocery, Weir’s meat market, barber, shoemaker, dry cleaner, and Don Maxwell’s Antique Shop. In addition to these, “The Dutch Oven” on Highway 29 also supplies antiques, as well as their specialty of hooked rugs. Then there is the Pottery Shop on the Highway, the Albert J. Benninger Agency of real estate and insurance, about a dozen gas stations, and quite



“Bird’s Corners” as it looks today with its row of stores at Mountain, Woodland and New Providence junction. *Courtesy, John Edwards.*

a few restaurants and taverns catering mostly to out-of-town trade also on the highway. One thing we old timers do miss is the bakery Bob Laing and his brother used to run at the corner of Central Avenue and Highway 29.

Many years before Mountainside became a separate Borough, there was a small Post Office high up on the mountain, just off Summit Road. After incorporation of the Borough, it was thought handier to have it nearer to the center of town, so Mrs. Schoonover was made Postmistress in the store. In 1900 and half of 1901, Charlie Roff brought the mail up from Westfield. Then the Westfield Post Office took over on the present setup, door-to-door delivery on the south side of the Highway, and Rural Delivery north of the Highway. Arrangements are under way to have door-to-door delivery north of "29" after the War, wherever desired and warranted.

Many new roads have been laid out since 1895, and the older ones paved and improved along with the newer routes. Main roads over the mountain were Summit Road, Park Road, Deer Path and "Pot Luck." The biggest building boom (bringing the population up to about 1400) was in the four years prior to World War II, developing the Borough up the mountainside in such sections as Birch Hill, Watch Hill, Orchard Park and Sky Top, as well as a few parts of the valley not already built up—Hillside Avenue, Mountainview Drive, Greenwood Road and outer Woodland Avenue, for example.

After the War, you can depend on it, the boom will continue, as people from all around find out what a nice Borough we have here on the mountainside.

Well, son, that's about all I can tell you that you didn't know before. Does it make you feel more at home in your town now that you know something about what went on here? I think you'll agree with me that its fifty years as a Borough have been good years, good years of growing up!

“Notes and Credits”

Giving credit where credit is due is sometimes a hard job, and this is no exception. So many people assisted in the compilation of this work that it would be impossible to list them all.

I sometimes wonder whether I should thank Mr. Herman Honecker, who, as President of the Civic Council at that time, suggested this History. Let me say that to him goes the credit, as well as any brickbats which may be forthcoming, for thinking up the whole thing.

But for assistance, my deep appreciation goes to Mr. Robert Hoffman of Westfield, not only for editing this book, but for the background of the section's early years. Mr. Robert Laing assisted greatly in supplying governmental and local data since the Borough's formation, and Mr. Pearson Greaves provided the Chapel's history as well as some of the older data. Also of great help were Mr. Charles Honecker, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Knoll, Mrs. Henry Weber, Sr., Mrs. Charles Shomo, Mr. Charles Wadas, Mrs. Gilbert Pittenger, Mrs. Edward Hansen, Mr. J. H. W. Edwards and Miss Clara Edwards, Mr. Richard Keller, Mr. F. H. Stedman, Mr. E. R. Zeitler, Mr. P. K. Davis, Mr. Donald Maxwell, Mrs. Harry Kniffin, Board Members of both the Coles Memorial Home and the Highland Home, Mr. John Edwards, Mrs. H. J. Kazmar and Mr. Harry Boyton, as well as many, many others.

Without the willing assistance of most of the older residents of the Borough, as well as those representing the various organizations, it would have been impossible to write down even this small History of Mountsinside.

JEAN HESKETH HERSHEY
Historian

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